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TORONTO • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2009

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Metro Drive

**A lot riding
on Toyota
Venza**

pg 19



"We're very preoccupied and worried that unemployment is going to rise sharply. Is the EI change sufficient...?" Liberal's Michael Ignatieff



"In today's budget, he prioritized \$60 billion in corporate tax cuts and only \$1.15 billion for the unemployed." NDP's Jack Layton



"They're not targeted enough. (There is) nothing in (the Conservative's budget) to obtain our support." BQ's Gilles Duceppe

Budget bleeds red

Tories project deficits until 2013 to blunt recession

The Conservatives have delivered a fixer-upper budget meant to rebuild the economy and get Canadians working, pumping \$40 billion over two years into everything from income tax cuts and help for home renovations to increased jobless benefits and cash for urban reconstruction.

Canadians will find out today if the Conservatives' economic safety net has earned the support of federal Liberals.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff initially offered a mixed review, but said he would announce this morning whether to vote down the budget — and defeat Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority government.

He said the budget's big-ticket spending and new assistance for the jobless was a "positive" response to "the combined pressure of the opposition parties," which threatened to topple the government if it failed to produce an adequate economic rescue package.

But the Liberal leader questioned whether Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has done enough to improve employment insurance (EI) benefits and whether the \$12 billion earmarked for infrastructure spending will flow quickly.

Cuts in hindsight

- Harper's cut to the Goods and Services Tax from seven to six per cent, then to five per cent has been projected to cost the federal coffers about \$12 billion in 2009-10.

The Conservatives boast the budget, aimed at reducing the impact of a growing global recession, will create or maintain close to 190,000 jobs. Taxpayers, low-income families and laid-off workers all stand to benefit in this bailout strategy that spreads tax breaks, cash support and incentives across every sector of society and business.

"We will start construction of roads, bridges, public transit, broadband Internet access, schools and social housing in every region of the country," Flaherty said.

But the stimulus comes at a cost. Not until 2013, when the total deficit is expected to be about \$85 billion, does the budget forecast a modest surplus of \$700 million. Flaherty defended the "temporary" deficit spending, calling it an "investment which is necessary to stimulate our economy."

Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe and NDP Leader Jack Layton quickly criticized the budget.

Layton said it is Ignatieff's responsibility to defeat the budget as it fails to meet the tests the Liberal leader set.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Finance Minister Jim Flaherty responds to a question following his budget speech in Ottawa yesterday. The Conservatives unveiled a budget that will run a deficit of \$34 billion in the next fiscal year.

Budget Highlights

- Cut personal taxes by \$20 billion over six years, including raising the upper limit of the two lowest personal income-tax brackets.
- Cut business taxes by \$2 billion over six years.
- \$7.8 billion for social housing and private home renovation, including a one-year Home Renovation Tax Credit of up to \$1,350 per household.
- \$12 billion (\$7 billion in new cash) for infrastructure spending on things like roads, sewers and universities, including \$1 billion for "green" infrastructure, and \$1 billion for clean-energy research.
- \$2.7 billion in short-term loans to the auto industry.
- A two-year, \$1-billion Community Adjustment Fund to help communities adjust to economic hardship.
- More than \$1.4 billion for aboriginal schools, health, water, housing, community services and training.
- \$8.3 billion for skills and training, including \$1.5 billion in new cash to retrain workers.
- Extend EI benefits by five weeks for two years.

Canada 2009

Federal Budget

- How the budget impacts families, individuals, pg 4-8
- Miller fears cash jam, pg 6
- Ignatieff to decide Tories' coalition's fate, pg 10
- Green plan panned, pg 11
- Kate MacNamara on following Bob the Builder, pg 14
- Word on the street, pg 14

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Charges dropped against two former ClubLink employees

Liquor licence charges against two former ClubLink executives were dropped in Bracebridge court yesterday after the Crown conceded they had been charged in error. Jim Molenhuis and Murray Blair were among 16 charged after a fatal Muskoka car crash last July left three young Toronto men dead. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

3

Local



Toronto tops Markham for Pan Am facility

Toronto has come out the winner in a bid to house a new national sports institute and aquatics centre for the 2015 Pan American Games, beating out Markham for a facility it had eagerly pursued. The \$170-million centre would be built at the University of Toronto's Scarborough campus, and would include a swimming facility, multi-sport field house, gymnastic facility and high-performance training centre. Toronto is competing against Bogota, Colombia, and Lima, Peru. The 42-member Pan American Sports Organization will choose the winner later this year. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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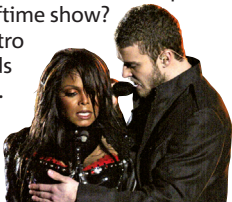
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Tomorrow's Metro

Music

What are the most memorable moments from the Super Bowl halftime show?

Metro finds out.



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Lotteries
 Ontario Pick 3: 1 4 3; Ontario Pick 4: 2 4 7 3
 Encore: 8212530
 Daily Keno: 1, 3, 4, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 28, 31, 33, 39, 45, 48, 52, 53, 55, 57, 70.
 These results are not official.

News in brief

SCHOOLS Toronto's public school board and its high school teachers are at a stand-off with little time left to get a deal before a Friday deadline. The union says it won't bend on the issue of how much supervision teachers are required to do. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Province back in the toll game

Expansion of Highway 407 in Durham region to be run by government

The government of Ontario is getting back into the toll highway business, announcing it will own the planned expansion of the privately run Highway 407.

In a surprise move yesterday, Transportation Minister Jim Bradley revealed that the extension of the pay-for-use highway from Brock Road in Pickering to Highways 35 and 115 in Clarington would be owned and operated by the govern-

Tory's response

Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory said the Liberals' long-anticipated announce-

ment.

"Clearly, the public agrees that the province of Ontario should own roads in the province of Ontario," Bradley told reporters, noting motorists have been angered by the rising tolls on

the private 407 ETR. "The province will control the tolling on the remainder of the highway."

But Bradley had few details on how much it would cost and whether 407 users travelling from the private-

ly run section would have to pay an additional toll when they enter the provincially operated stretch, expected to open in 2013.

The government expects the project will generate 24,000 construction jobs and highway revenues will pay for it.

News that the Liberals will impose their own tolls on what will be a publicly owned highway is a U-turn for Premier

Dalton McGuinty.

"I'm personally against tolls, and we're going to make sure we have the kind of financing package in place that eliminates the need for tolls," he said on June 15, 2007.

His comments came more than a year after his government lost the last of seven court challenges against 407 International Inc. over toll increases.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Premier looks to solve York crisis

STRIKE Premier Dalton McGuinty, stung by accusations of fumbling the York University strike, says the government is exploring a new commission that would intervene when campus labour disputes are getting out of hand.

A commission won't help the nearly 45,000 York University students still not in class, said Sid Ryan, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, who added that if back-to-work legislation passes today or tomorrow, CUPE may take court action on the basis that it violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"If we pursue it, the strike will be prolonged," Ryan told a news conference at Queen's Park yesterday. "We don't want to go down that road." There was no "deadlock" in the talks, he said.

Mediator Reg Pearson was brought in last week to bring a quick settlement to the three-month strike, but informed the premier early Saturday



A police officer arrests a protester yesterday during a rally over the ongoing York University strike. Some 200 people took part in a union-organized rally at which four people were arrested following a confrontation with police.

that negotiation was not possible.

CUPE Local 3903 wanted to keep bargaining, but it was York who stopped and refused to continue, he said.

NDP Leader Howard Hampton phoned McGuinty early yesterday and

urged him to call York president Mamdouh Shoukri to get him back to the table. McGuinty then encouraged Shoukri to do so while back-to-work legislation makes its way through the legislature.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Loblaws shut down for vermin infestation

RODENTS The Dupont and Christie neighbourhood will be without a Loblaws for the foreseeable future after city health officials shuttered the store Monday night for "heavy" vermin infestation.

The store "will remain closed until further notice," said a statement released last night by Loblaw Companies Ltd., the store's parent company. "Rigorous steps are being taken to thoroughly complete the action items requested by Toronto Public Health."

On Monday, a health inspector discovered an infestation of mice and rats, including droppings in food preparation areas, at the store at 650 Dupont St.

"It's a bad one. It's a serious infestation."

Jim Chan, food safety manager

Inspectors re-examined the supermarket yesterday afternoon at the company's request, but "more work needs to be done," said Jim Chan, manager of food safety for Toronto Public Health.

"It's a bad one," Chan said of the food safety violations yesterday. "It's a serious infestation."

The company also faces three bylaw charges that could draw fines of up to \$25,000 each, Chan said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Deportation stay for war resister

COURTS A U.S. war resister living in Toronto who was scheduled to be deported yesterday has been granted a temporary stay of removal by Federal Court.

Kim Rivera served in Iraq with the American military

in 2006, but moved to Canada the following year after she refused redeployment.

She has been living here with her husband and three children, including a six-week-old girl who was born in Canada. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Federal Budget 2009

Budget tax credits don't amount to much for family

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Toronto



A young family with only one full time income, the Melvilles say they weren't expecting much on a personal level from the federal budget and that's what they got.

Many of the tax cuts proposed in the document tabled yesterday are targeted at lower-income families and seniors, which Clarke Melville said makes the most sense anyway.

"Those are the people who need it most," he said.

With the increase of the basic personal exemption — to \$10,320 in 2009, up from \$9,600 in 2008 — and the lowest and middle income tax brackets raised a few thousand dollars, a family like the Melvilles will save a couple of hundred dollars this year, he said.

"Which isn't really a lot of money in the grand scheme of things," he added.

The most significant detail in the budget for the Melvilles was the Home Renovation Tax Credit, which they said they'll make good use of.



Clarke Melville and Christine Meahan-Melville read with their two young boys Duncan, 4, and Patrick, 1½, in their Oakville home before the passing of the budget. The couple says they weren't expecting a lot from the federal budget at a personal level.

"It does kind of push you over the edge if you were thinking of making some home renovations; this just kind of sweetens the deal a little bit," Melville said.

The credit allows for a 15 per cent credit on any home renovations over \$1,000 and up to a total of \$10,000 worth up to \$1,350 for 2009 only.

Accountant Hamid Shaikh with Tax & Accounting Experts Inc. in Mississauga, said the current political situation does not allow for any bigger tax breaks.

"Any large tax breaks actually may contribute to bringing the government down," he said.

Harper has to focus on job

creation measures instead, he added.

Kevin Gaudet, spokesman for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, said he was happy to see the broad-based tax relief for businesses, individuals and families that the federation had been calling for.

"We'd like to see that keep moving forward," he said.

The People Speak

Budget reaction from Canadians across the nation

HALIFAX Senior citizen

Marilyn Peers saw some new money for seniors in the federal budget, but the 77-year-old Halifax resident hoped for more.

"It's going to be worse than better in the near future, and (seniors) have a lot of concern for our adult children, as well as how it will affect us," she said last night.

Peers and her husband are retired, and rely on investment income. She hoped the government would freeze forced withdrawals from registered retirement investment funds.



John & Marilyn Peers

elior of science and nursing degree after working as a registered practical nurse for a year.

She followed the budget to find out what the federal government allotted for long-term care. She said she also wanted to see more money filtered into universities and colleges.

CALGARY Double income family (\$150K), 2 kids

Calgary small business owner, proud husband and father of two, Mike April, watched yesterday's budget and said as far as his family goes, there wasn't a lot that he could see directly benefiting them — aside from the tax cuts.

According to Dean Paley, tax professional for Edward Jones Canada, the Aprils will see that tax relief — to the tune of about \$350 per year, having a two-income household nearing the \$150,000 mark.

Paley said the Aprils will continue to realize good tax and retirement benefits in the future as long as they continue to contribute regularly to RRSP's and their children's education.

OTTAWA Single student

A student at the University of Ottawa, Adrienne Walton followed the federal budget yesterday to see — for better or for worse — how student life would be impacted.

Walton, 31, recently returned to school full time for her bach-

EDMONTON Single parent

For single father Warren Dahlen, yesterday's federal budget announcement means he should be able to keep putting food on the table in front of his two young daughters.

The federal government has promised \$12 billion for infrastructure, which is good news for the 40-year-old electrician, whose employment is only secured by new construction.

"It's going to guarantee some tradesmen out there will keep their jobs. As long as things are being built, we'll be working," he said.

VANCOUVER Same-sex couple

A newly married Vancouver couple will save \$1,100 in taxes this year thanks to almost \$20 billion over five years in tax relief announced in yesterday's federal budget.



Karen Chan, 29, and Amy Romanas, 35, were married last January and are filing their tax returns together for the first time. Combined, the couple earns about \$100,000 annually.

They are benefiting from an increase in the basic personal exemption to \$10,320.

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The Ontario Chamber of Commerce welcomed the infrastructure spending in the federal budget, but said it's concerned cash-strapped municipalities won't be able to pony up their share. Chamber president Len Crispino said it was not clear to what degree there would be opportunities for matching funds. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Federal Budget 2009

Flow of funds worries Miller

Mayor fears red tape will slow cash release

Mayor David Miller is expressing deep concerns it will take two years for Canadian cities like Toronto to see the infrastructure money announced in Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's budget.

Miller told reporters he's disappointed money for projects will flow through Ottawa's Building Canada Fund, a fund he said is "full of red tape."

He said that up to now the fund has delivered a lengthy approvals process where provincial and federal governments give the go-ahead for projects, and municipalities must provide matching funds.

Miller and other Canadian mayors say they've already identified their priorities and had urged Ottawa to set aside money

Transit City

- Miller said council asked for funding for Transit City vehicles and \$6 billion (for Transit City — a network of above-ground light-rail transit lines) to match the provincial two-thirds contribution for Move Ontario 2020.

immediately for local projects based on the gas-tax formula, which is loosely based on population — with top-ups for smaller cities.

Miller argued that based on the way Building Canada has worked thus far, it will take two years to see money for local projects.

He gave the example of the TTC's Spadina subway extension from Downsview station into York Region,

which has been dealt with through Building Canada.

The province, city of Toronto and York Region reached agreement in March 2006 on funding the extension, and Ottawa promised money a few months later, Miller said. Yet the final agreement with the federal government wasn't signed until September 2008.

"They (Ottawa) are proposing in this budget to put more money into that kind of fund. That means the money will not hit the ground in any practical way until two years from now. If you really want to build infrastructure now and put people back to work, that's not the right way to do it," Miller told reporters.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tay Lo received no severance pay when her employer, Progressive Moulding Products in Vaughan, went bankrupt in July. Provisions in the budget would provide up to four weeks pay but she said the changes are too late for her.

Changes too late for single mom

Tay Lo, 39, a single mom with two children, ages two and five, is an unemployed auto-parts factory worker. She attends math and English upgrading course five days a week through Ontario's Second Career program and wants to train for a job in social work.

Lo has been without income since Jan. 12 when EI ran out. Her ex-husband has just been laid off and

likely won't be able to continue child support payments.

LO'S BUDGET HOPES: Longer EI coverage and higher benefits. Protection for workers when companies go bankrupt. More financial support for unemployed workers in training programs. More help for low-income families raising children.

BUDGET REALITY: Lo is

pleased the budget proposes to extend EI benefits for an extra five weeks to a maximum of 50. But since her benefits have run out, it won't help her. She is disappointed the budget didn't raise EI benefit levels or change eligibility rules.

She's hoping the \$1 billion earmarked for training will last long enough to see her retrained.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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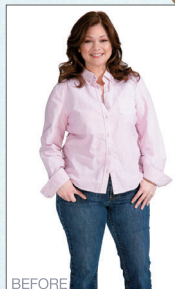
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Coast Guard gets big boost

The Canadian Coast Guard's fleet got a major boost in yesterday's budget with \$175 million earmarked for new small craft and refurbishment of larger vessels. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES**

Federal Budget 2009



John MacDonald sits in his Oshawa townhome after being laid off from General Motors last year. He finds the government's employment program frustrating.

Laid-off GM worker still waiting for help

John MacDonald, 29, worked for General Motors in Oshawa for 11 years before being laid off in December.

He's single, rents a house in Oshawa and is currently eligible for \$337 a week through employment insurance; at GM he was making more than \$1,000 a week, after taxes.

BUDGET HOPES: MacDonald hoped for retraining funding that would let him take a year-long engineering program for nuclear operations.

He said he has been told he is not eligible because he only qualifies for 36 weeks of EI and the program is longer than that. Retraining funding must be substantial enough "that I could still have some kind of income to pay my bills and still put some food on the table." MacDonald was also watching for poverty re-

"It completely lacks any kind of provisions that help people who are going to get laid off."

John MacDonald

duction strategies because he worries rising unemployment will force more and more people into poverty, as well as infrastructure spending that would allow a young person like him to get work "right away."

BUDGET REALITY: "I'm not happy with it," MacDonald said. "Not at all."

"It completely lacks any kind of provisions that help people who are going to get laid off."

He said he might be eligible for five more weeks of EI, but he remains doubtful that he qualifies for retraining, despite the

funding announced.

He was frustrated the budget did not appear to make more people eligible for EI.

He said infrastructure spending would not help him find employment without training to go with it, and criticized the temporary tax credits for renovations: "You're not going to retrofit your house if you don't have a job."

Aside from improved child tax benefits, MacDonald said, "I've seen absolutely nothing in there on poverty reduction."

MacDonald watched the budget at the CAW hall with his former colleagues.

"There's a lot of people here but everybody is very, very disappointed."

COALITION: "I hope that (Michael) Ignatieff and the Liberal caucus do not accept (the budget)."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Infrastructure development GM sees promise

Domenic Villani, 36, is a general manager of Clearway Construction Incorporated, a medium-sized infrastructure development company based in Vaughan that builds sewers, roads, bridges and water mains.

BUDGET HOPES: He wants more money for infrastruc-

ture — roads, sewers, bridges and water mains that can be built this year and next. He says the government must provide assurances that the money gets into the hands of governments that can spend it quickly.



Domenic Villani

BUDGET REALITY: Villani is pleased the government is pumping \$12 billion into infrastructure programs over the next two years and is happy \$1 billion of that has been earmarked for green jobs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hoping for more from EI

Cammie Peirce, 49, has been employed at Chrysler's Brampton Assembly plant for the past 21 years.

She is also the co-ordinator of the Chrysler Action Centre since it opened in April 2008 to help laid-off workers.

This single mom with four kids (two in university), owns a home in Georgetown and earns \$76,000 a year.

BUDGET HOPES: She hoped for measures "that make people feel comfortable they can start making purchases again" as well as financial incentives for consumers to buy cars built in North America.

Peirce also wanted improvements to employment insurance that would calm her fears about quali-



Cammie Peirce

fying for EI and about how long she would be eligible if she loses her job. She says EI has not kept up with inflation and wage increases.

BUDGET REALITY: "Nobody feels like there was anything there that's going to save our jobs," said Peirce, who watched the budget

announcement with Chrysler colleagues at Jake's Boathouse in Brampton.

Peirce said funding for lenders to offer consumers better terms to lease or finance vehicles would not encourage car sales.

"Absolutely, I think it's important to free up money so that people can (make) purchases, and I think that's great, but you need to do something that's going to put the confidence there."

Peirce said five extra weeks of EI do not make much difference and the changes do not rectify regional disparities.

COALITION: "I'm not in favour of toppling a government but I don't think that this has a lot of solutions." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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Federal Budget 2009

'It appears we didn't win gold in this contest:' Senior

Duane Frerichs, 72, is an Air Canada pensioner who was a pilot for 24 years with the company, and retired 18 years ago.

Frerichs has lived in the same house in Georgetown for the past 41 years with his wife. He says even if he wanted to move, he "can't afford it now."

"I have a pension better than the average person," he says, without divulging details. But he admits he is still worried he will outlast it. "If I look at my genes, I have another good 20 years to go. I don't know if my pension will be around that long."

BUDGET HOPES: If anyone

"There's not really a heck of a lot for seniors."

Duane Frerichs

has felt the impact of the economic downturn, it is seniors like Frerichs, a retired pilot and former mili-

tary man who saw his nest egg, savings, and dreams of Freedom 65 disappear in a matter of days. He lost \$25,000 in October, when his stocks fell in a matter of hours. His life has not improved since. He has been watching his money closely and was optimistic the government would address

the growing concerns of pensioners and retirees who have been hard hit in the budget. He was hoping to see an announcement on pension protection, the elimination of mandatory RRIF withdrawals every month, and the creation of a universal pension plan for the "60 per cent of seniors who don't get a pension."

BUDGET REALITY: "It appears we didn't win gold in this contest!" said Frerichs, shortly after the budget was laid out yesterday. "There's not really a heck of a lot for seniors." What is there are changes to the age credit, personal tax reductions and \$400 million

in funding to build housing for low-income seniors.

The biggest disappointment was that the government didn't change the rules for RRIFs: "It was something that would be basically no cost for the government, to let pensioners withdraw from the RRIFs as they need it, rather than saying you have to take out so much each year whether you need or not it," he said. "That is something that could have been easily justified and implemented, and was not."

COALITION: Can't say, but adds: "Probably the Liberals wouldn't do anything either." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

An important change in how organ and tissue donation decisions are registered in Ontario.

Have you registered a decision of "No" or "Undecided" regarding organ and tissue donation?

Then, you should know that, Ontario has changed the way donation decisions are recorded. Now, only a "Yes" to organ and tissue donation will be collected and stored in the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) database. At the appropriate time, this information will be accessed by the Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN), Ontario's provincial organ donation agency.

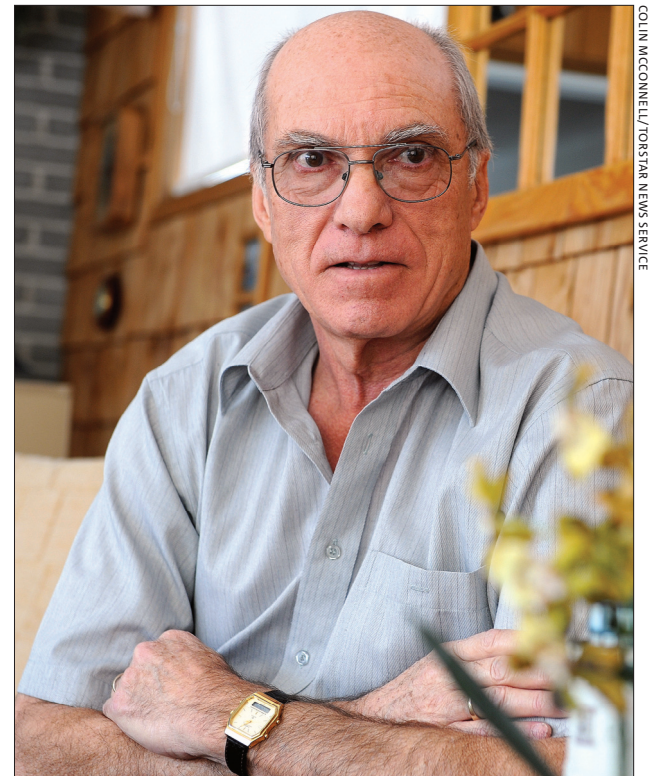
If you have previously registered "NO" or "UNDECIDED", this decision will no longer be used or disclosed to TGLN, as of July 1, 2009.

Therefore, it is important that you tell your family or loved ones of your decision, to ensure that your wishes are properly conveyed to your health care team at the relevant time.

Make your donation decision known to your family.

To find out more, visit www.ontario.ca/organdonation or call ServiceOntario, INFOnline at 1-866-532-3161.

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Duane Frerichs, seen in his Georgetown home, is disappointed the government didn't change RRIF rules.

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Federal

Budget 2009

Big spenders

Pierre Trudeau and Brian Mulroney both spent Canada deeper and deeper into debt during the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s. Trudeau failed to balance the books for 15 years as prime minister. Mulroney never managed to produce a surplus.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tories await their fate

NDP, Bloc immediately condemn budget; Liberal decision today

The fate of the Conservative government lies with Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, who says he is concerned the Harper government has underestimated the economic crisis.

Ignatieff, who met with his Liberal caucus last night, was to announce today whether his party would support the government's economic plan, or possibly join with the NDP and the Bloc Québécois to defeat the Conservatives in the Commons.

There was talk among some Liberals last night about possibly proposing an amendment to the budget to address some of the party's concerns.

New Democrat Leader Jack Layton and Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe swiftly condemned the budget as a failed "ideological" document that does not address the needs of the jobless and the most vulnerable, nor move Canada toward a greener economy.

Their parties intend to vote to defeat the government on the budget, and Layton publicly pressured Ignatieff to do the same.

Layton said the budget fails on the very tests — helping the most vulnerable, protecting the jobs of today and creating jobs for tomorrow — that Ignatieff had set out.

"He has a choice to make," Layton told reporters. "It's either to prop up the Harper government and allow it to continue in a fashion that is clearly wrong-headed, or to pursue the agenda laid out by the



Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe, left, talks with New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton yesterday in the foyer of the House of Commons on Parliament Hill after listening to the budget speech.

"He has a choice to make. It's either to prop up the Harper government and allow it to continue in a fashion that is clearly wrong-headed, or to pursue the agenda laid out by the coalition, which would create jobs for the future and would transform our economy and would really protect the people who are suffering the most from the economic crisis."

NDP Leader Jack Layton

coalition, which would create jobs for the future and would transform our economy and would really protect

the people who are suffering the most from the economic crisis."

Layton was referring to

the agreement signed by the Liberals and NDP in December to form a coalition, supported by the Bloc, to re-

place the Conservative government.

Ignatieff, however, said yesterday the Conservative budget contained "some positive elements" that he credited to the political pressure brought to bear by the united opposition parties before Christmas.

He said there are also "negative aspects."

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
MORE ON IGNATIEFF'S
DECISION, PAGE 11.**

EI benefits extended five weeks

Ottawa's plan to extend employment insurance by five weeks is better than nothing, say some workers struggling with job loss and an uncertain future.

But for those whose EI has already run out, yesterday's federal budget offered little comfort.

Economists, labour groups and business leaders had also called on Ottawa to end regional inequities in the system

that make it easier for the unemployed in some parts of the country to qualify than in others.

They note that reforms during the 1990s to limit access and benefits to employment insurance have resulted in a program that covers barely half of unemployed workers in Canada today. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Losses

• With recent job losses topping 100,000 and the threat of another 250,000 Canadians being thrown out of work in the coming year, the lack of major EI reforms is the budget's biggest weakness, said economist Armine Yalnizyan of the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

More to be taken off tax rolls

RELIEF In a something-for-everyone budget, the Conservative government has proposed widespread tax relief for small businesses, homeowners, seniors, and low- and middle-income Canadians.

The budget calls for tax measures that will leave more money in more people's pockets, including the sprawling middle class, whose support the Conservatives covet.

The moves will take an additional 265,000 Canadians off the tax rolls altogether, largely through changes to the basic personal income tax exemption and to the seniors' Age Credit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Many wild cards in play for future of the economy

The federal budget is a "prudent" prescription to help heal Canada's ailing economy, but the modest stimulus spending and tax cuts alone may not be enough to pull Canada out of its deepening recession, economists said yesterday.

Dubbing the budget "Canada's economic action plan," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said the measures were aimed at resuscitating consumer spending and

Savings to trickle down

• Economists said the permanent nature of tax breaks would help those savings trickle down

into the real economy, contrasting them with the temporary tax rebates doled out to Ameri-

cans last year. Lower-income Canadians, they say, have a greater propensity to consume.

protecting increasingly vulnerable jobs amid a worsening global recession.

Flaherty said measures to shore up the sputtering economy must begin within the next 120 days to be

effective. Overall, the government hopes its action plan will create or preserve up to 190,000 jobs for Canadians by the end of 2010.

Private sector econo-

mists, however, stressed the outlook for the global economy remains clouded. There are many wild cards including the future direction of commodity prices and the timing of any even-

tual economic recovery in the United States — not to mention the future health of Canada's own housing and stock markets.

Since the global economic meltdown was originally sparked by events outside this country's borders, the government's "made-in-Canada" solution is unlikely to be a cure-all for the domestic economic funk.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No substance, says Greenpeace spokesperson

"There's a total lack of vision," said Stephen Gilbeault from Greenpeace. "What they're trying to do is talk green and look green, but there's no substance to it." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

canada **11****Federal Budget 2009**

It's not easy being green

Critics pan largest environmental stimulus in Canadian history

It was the largest green stimulus in Canadian history, according to the federal environment minister, but elements of the budget plan that use the environment to revamp the economy fell short of many expectations.

Yesterday's budget contained more than \$3 billion to develop clean technologies, build environmentally-sustainable infrastructure and improve energy efficiency in homes.

"The provisions in the budget relating to the environment are very significant," Environment Minister Jim Prentice told the Toronto Star. "When you add all this up, it's certainly the largest green stimulus that we've ever seen."

But critics say the federal government's plans fall far short of national public transit and other infrastructure needs while spending too much taxpayers' money in Alberta's oilsands and not enough on renewable energy.

There were at least two mentions of carbon capture



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty shakes hands with Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday after delivering the federal budget in the House of Commons.

and storage projects that store greenhouse gas emissions underground in a section of the budget that outlines the five-year, \$1-billion clean energy fund, noted

Stephen Gilbeault of Greenpeace.

The government also earmarked \$292 million to help develop the CANDU nuclear reactor and operate

the Chalk River facility.

The new clean energy fund is "an excellent start," but it is important to rapidly increase funding for renewable energy projects, both to

keep up with the pace that is being set in Washington by U.S. President Barack Obama and to help emerging Canadian companies stay competitive, said Vicky Sharpe, president and chief executive of Sustainable Development Technology Canada.

Obama has vowed to double energy production from renewable sources in three years as part of his stimulus package.

"We're either going to be technology takers or makers, and so if we're going to see an upswing in support for clean technology development in the U.S. then I think we need to be matching that," Sharpe said.

The government wants 90 per cent of energy from clean sources by 2020, a goal that is dependent on shutting down Ontario's coal-fired electricity plants and switching to hydro, nuclear and natural gas as power sources, Prentice said. Wind and solar power can also play a smaller role, he added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Then & now

Jim Flaherty on the Economy

Oct. 7, 2008:

"We had a surplus in the first quarter of this year ... which is, in fact, ahead of track on our budget assumptions. So I'm quite comfortable that we're on track, in fact, a little bit better than on track, for this fiscal year."

Oct. 24, 2008

"I can assure you that we remain on track for a balanced budget this fiscal year with a modest surplus by the end of the fiscal year."

Oct. 27, 2008:

"Canada will be the envy of other industrialized nations."

Nov. 13, 2008

"We won't take steps that will hurt the real economy just for the sake of having a small surplus."

Dec. 11, 2008

"It's quite clear on the basis of the forecasts and the continuing declines in the forecast that there will be a deficit."

Dec. 12, 2008

"We are living in extraordinary times ... Panicking and making the wrong choices would be devastating for the Canadian economy."

Jan. 21, 2009

"We will not create a permanent, long-term deficit for Canada ... In our economic plan, we will show how we will exit from deficit as the economy exits from recession."

Jan. 27, 2009

"As the economy recovers, we fully expect to emerge from deficit and return to surplus within five years ... While our projections are based on the best information available, we cannot guarantee them absolutely."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tories boost spending for less fortunate

PRESSURE The Conservative government was under more political pressure than usual to boost social spending as the would-be coalition was on the lookout for whether it would help those that the economic crisis has left most vulnerable.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty set the tone by making it clear the budget yesterday was not one for a time of prosperity, but one that would do what it could to keep the economy moving while protecting its citizens from the worst effects of the slowdown.

"We will need to spend more to protect our economy and help Canadians hit hardest by the global recession," Flaherty said in his speech in the House of Commons yesterday.

Nicholas Gazzard, executive director of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, said he believes the political crisis had something to do with the social spending included in the budget yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's your move, Iggy

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff laid out three tests to determine whether his party will support the budget. Here are the tests and some budget offerings that might satisfy his demands:

Protect the vulnerable

- Extension of employment insurance benefits by five weeks for the next two years.
- Extension of protections to safeguard severance and termination pay for workers hit by company bankruptcies.
- Greater tax relief from the working income tax benefit to encourage low-income Canadians to find and keep jobs.
- Up to \$150 in tax savings for low- and middle-income seniors through an increase in age credit amount.
- \$1 billion for renovating social housing.

Protect the jobs of today

- \$12 billion over two years for new infrastructure spending.
- \$7.8 billion in tax relief and funding to stimulate the housing sector and improve housing.
- \$170 million toward a "more sus-

tainable and competitive" forestry sector.

Create jobs for tomorrow

- \$55 million over two years to help young Canadians find summer jobs, giving them valuable experience in the workforce.
- \$2 billion to repair, retrofit and expand facilities at post-secondary institutions.
- \$750 million for leading-edge research infrastructure through the Canada Foundation for Innovation.
- \$110 million to the Canadian Space Agency for more advanced robotics and space technologies.

Did the budget pass Liberal muster? We'll find out today at 11 a.m. when Ignatieff announces whether his party will support it. Last night, the Liberal leader questioned whether the Conservatives had done enough for the unemployed and whether the infrastructure cash would be spent quickly enough.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

RENOVATIONS The Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) is designed to get Canadians spending now to help create jobs in industries typically

hurt by an economic downturn. Effective today through Jan. 31, 2010, homeowners can claim a tax credit for 15 per cent of renovation

expenses between \$1,000 and \$10,000. The maximum tax credit (on \$9,000 in renovations) is worth \$1,350.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Steps added to prop up lending

CREDIT The federal government is bolstering efforts to keep credit flowing in Canada — its starkest acknowledgement to date that consumers and businesses are being increasingly squeezed by the global credit crunch.

The measures, announced in yesterday's federal budget strengthen Ottawa's previous actions to prop up lending by improving access to financing for both households and businesses. Officials said the "Extraordinary Financing Framework" would provide up to \$200 billion to fill gaps in credit markets.

The government is not only fortifying existing programs, it is taking a fresh stab at stemming the crisis through a slew of new actions. Some observers said that bold approach signals that Canada's credit predicament is now worse than originally imagined.

The \$200-billion price tag is a combination of past programs and new endeavours.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Alberta is ordering regular testing of all 800 Tasers used by municipal police forces across the province in the wake of testing that found irregularities with some of the stun guns. The solicitor general announced yesterday that testing will ensure the Tasers are not sending larger shocks than specified. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada



Bus driver hailed as a hero

A 51-year-old Greyhound bus driver from Windsor is being recommended for an OPP citation award for bravery and lifesaving after he fended off an unruly passenger who tried to grab the steering wheel from him. The incident took place yesterday morning on Highway 401 near Tecumseh, Ont. — the bus was heading from Detroit to Toronto.

TONSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Auto costs may rise if EPA raises standards

If the U.S. decides to allow individual states to impose tougher vehicle emission standards than those enforced by the federal government, Canadian consumers could find themselves paying more for vehicles while auto manufacturers and parts makers struggle to supply a fragmented system.

U.S. President Barack Obama broke with policy set by his predecessor yesterday and ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to re-examine whether Califor-

nia and other states should be allowed to set their own emission standards.

While it remains to be seen whether the agency will agree to the proposal, industry watchers are concerned the divided system that could result will hurt automakers, suppliers and, ultimately, consumers.

"It's going to drive up costs, no ifs, ands or buts," said Pete Mateja, an auto industry specialist at the University of Windsor.

He added there's a danger Canada will follow suit by

allowing provinces to set their own stringent regulations, as Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said Canada will harmonize its auto emission standards with those of the U.S.

B.C., Quebec and Manitoba have been working to set their own standards.

Forcing North American automakers to supply a fragmented system could drive up costs for both assemblers and suppliers — costs that will ultimately be passed on to consumers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The icebreaker Terry Fox tries to free up the passenger ship Vacancier, right, yesterday — one of three vessels ensnared in thick ice at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River.

Cruise ship freed from thick ice

ST. LAWRENCE A cruise ship with about 300 people on board was freed from the icy grip of the St. Lawrence River yesterday.

Originally, two ships became ensnared in thick ice near Matane, Que., about 630 kilometres northeast of Montreal.

The coast guard icebreaker Terry Fox was then sent to free the vessels but also

became trapped.

Nathalie Letendre, communications officer for the Coast Guard in Quebec, denied the Terry Fox got stuck. "It just had difficulty to move in the ice," she said.

"There is a difference."

The icebreaker was able to get free yesterday and slowly broke up enough ice to allow the Vacancier to

continue its journey toward the Gaspé peninsula.

The second ship remained stuck as of late yesterday afternoon, but another icebreaker was on its way, said Letendre.

The captain of the chartered CTMA Vacancier, Bernard Langford, told the Toronto Star the ice was more than two metres thick in places. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

News in brief

COMMENTS Nunavut's premier has stripped the territory's justice minister of his duties over a remark that suggests women

are partly to blame when they are assaulted during domestic disputes. Eva Ariak said she has taken over the department

from Louis Tapardjuk, who made the comment last week in an e-mail.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Novelist John Updike dies of lung cancer

John Updike, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist best known for his four Rabbit novels, died of lung cancer yesterday at a hospice near his home in Beverly Farms, Mass., at age 76. He released more than 50 books in a career that started in the 1950s. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

World



Bombing, air strike test truce

Palestinian militants detonated a bomb that killed an Israeli soldier patrolling near Gaza yesterday and Israel responded with an air strike, straining the fragile ceasefire on the eve of a visit by U.S. President Barack Obama's new Mideast envoy. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, left, criticized the Hamas leadership for bringing destruction to Gaza. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Obama tries to sway wary Republicans

U.S. President Barack Obama met with Republicans yesterday in an effort to win their support for the \$825-billion US economic stimulus package he hopes will keep the United States from plunging even deeper into an already devastating recession.

In two hours of meetings at the Capitol, Obama attempted to convince wary Republicans that swift, bipartisan action was needed to rescue a frantically free-falling economy.

"I don't expect 100 per cent agreement from my Republican colleagues, but I do hope that we can all put politics aside and do the American people's business right now," Obama told the media.

"The statistics every day underscore the urgency of the economic situation."

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the package's prospects were good.

"The statistics every day underscore the urgency of the economic situation."

Barack Obama

"I think we will have Republican support for this bill," he said.

The president has been arguing for weeks that time is of the essence for the package, and the flailing economy needs a lifeline now. But Republicans have complained the bill is too tilted toward spending and doesn't contain enough tax relief.

Congress is set to vote on the stimulus package today. While the bill can potentially pass without Republican support, at least two Republicans will need to approve it for a filibuster-proof majority vote of 60. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Up Helly-Aa Europe's largest fire festival



Torch bearers prepare to throw their flames into a replica longship yesterday at the Up Helly-Aa festival in Lerwick on the Shetland Isles, north of Scotland. Up Helly-Aa, the largest fire festival in Europe and based on a theme of the nordic invaders, has been celebrated as an end to the old Yule season in Shetland for more than 100 years, though its exact origins are obscure. Each year a replica of a Viking galley is built, dragged through the streets and burned amid revelry. **ANDREW MILLIGAN/PA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Iran women's soccer team disbanded

FORBIDDEN Estghlal, one of Iran's two top clubs, has dissolved its female football team after it played against the male youth squad, Iranian state television reported yesterday.

The game was unprecedented in Iranian football and prompted a scandal.

The club suspended both team's coaches and slapped them with fines of up to \$5,000.

Iran's strict Islamic rule bans physical contact between unrelated men and women. Women are even banned from soccer games when male teams play. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

News in brief

SRI LANKA The rebel-patrolled streets of Mullaitivu were empty yesterday except for stray dogs, abandoned cows and a few government soldiers. The Tamil Tigers deserted the last major town under their control as Sri Lankan

troops swept into the area pushing the insurgents and thousands of residents into the nearby jungle and villages — the only remnants of the separatists' once substantial shadow state. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Dad shoots wife, five children

A father apparently distraught over job problems fatally shot his wife, five young children and himself at their Los Angeles harbour-area home yesterday. Shortly before the killings, the man faxed a letter to a TV station claiming

Fax

• KABC-TV reported the man claimed in the fax that a medical centre administrator rebuffed them when they showed up to work, told them to file a union grievance and said, "You should have blown your brains out."

The child victims were an eight-year-old girl, twin five-year-old girls and twin two-year-old boys. It was the third mass slaying of a family in Southern California since fall. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

United States' intelligence chief has resigned: Official

A U.S. official says National Intelligence Director Michael McConnell has resigned his post.

U.S. President Barack Obama has nominated retired admiral Dennis Blair to be the next intelligence director. He would oversee a budget of nearly \$50 billion US and a workforce of more than 100,000 spread

across 16 agencies.

Obama has asked McConnell to serve on the President's Intelligence Advisory Board.

McConnell was the country's second national intelligence director and has served in the job for nearly two years. The position was created in 2004. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Comment

Building in Bob's name

Can we fix it? How about can we afford it?

Usual Business

Kate MacNamara

kmacnamara@explornet.com

In spite of the \$40-billion budget he brought down yesterday Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty, is not the man of the hour.

Neither is opposition leader Michael Ignatieff, on whose shoulders the fate of this borrowed stimulus now rests. Nope.

It isn't even U.S. President Barack Obama as he leans on Washington lawmakers to pass his trillion dollar spending plan.

The man who defines our time is Bob the Builder, the children's cartoon character.

Governments across the western world, and now including our own, have stolen the little fella's show: building houses, roads, bridges, schools, you get the idea.

The Conservatives says

they're putting shovels and hammers to work across the country, in order to make work, and lift a flagging economy.

All told new federal infrastructure spending will top \$11 billion.

Mr. Flaherty even filched the little guy's tradesman look when he donned steel-toed boots to fulfil the tradition of launching a budget in a pair of new shoes.

In fact, the only thing Mr. Flaherty didn't rip off was Bob's slogan: Can we

fix it?

To which his crew of animated bulldozers responds ... Yes we can.

Mr. Obama already filched it for his presidential campaign.

Canada 2009

Federal Budget

But all of this "shovel ready" business isn't the only expensive measure in this budget.

There are several billion dollars for re-training the unemployed.

Billions more in tax credits for everything from home renos to computers.

There are income tax reductions and help for small businesses.

Aimed at the very special of special interests is the money to increase slaughterhouse square-footage, and the help for lumber mills to expand their sales in

Timbuktu.

There are also more sensible measures to help thaw tightening credit.

For example, there is more than \$60 billion available to buy loans from the balance sheets of banks and other lenders.

That might not have much curb appeal, but it may just mean cheaper and more ready mortgages and car loans for consumers.

Canada is well positioned in the face of a looming recession.

We are returning to deficit spending after 12 years of surpluses.

But Mr. Flaherty said yesterday he doesn't expect the government to return to balanced budgets until 2013.

The interceding years, he estimated, would heap a further \$85-billion on the national debt.

That leaves the question Bob's pint sized audience can afford to ignore — can we afford it?

Kate MacNamara is a business reporter for CBC radio. She lives in Bragg Creek, Alberta.



Letters

Child development grads may not be qualified to teach

An article that appeared in Metro on the bachelor of child development program (Jan. 13) being offered by Seneca College may mislead members of the public or potential students into believing that graduates of the program are eligible to teach in Ontario schools.

Teachers in publicly funded schools in Ontario must be certified by the Ontario College of Teachers. One of the requirements for certification is the successful completion of a bachelor of education. The bachelor of child development does not qualify as a teacher education program.

LINDA ZAKS-WALKER, DIRECTOR,
ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TEACHERS

Word on the street: Was this a good budget?

Angela Leggett

Age: 35 Toronto

A: We just moved into a new house so that tax credit (home renovations) will allow me to spend a bit more money.

Billy O'Neill

Age: 34 Toronto

A: The budget fails to address the shortfalls in the Employment Insurance program. The temporary extension of 5 weeks is not enough.

Adnan Najmi

Age: 22 Toronto

A: (I was) hoping for more funding for post-secondary education ... By the end of four years you already have a minimum of 40 grand of loan.

Christy McGoldrick

Age: 29 Ottawa

A: They really packed a lot of spending and tax cuts into one budget. I like that there was \$12 billion for repairs to roads, sewers and universities.

William Rome

Age: 19 Ottawa

A: This is really going to help our economy in the long run and hopefully help us get out of the recession a bit quicker.

Kaley Kennedy

Federation of Students, Nova Scotia

A: We didn't see anything that's going to reduce student debt or reduce tuition fees.

Peter Kelly

Mayor, Halifax

A: It appears that they listened to us ... we're asking them to put a bit more meat on the bones so we actually know what we're eating.

Corinne McKetiak

Age: 21 Calgary

A: I was kinda worried they would have fancy fixes for everything ... it seems smart to give back to people so that they can spend.

Gregor Robertson

Mayor, Vancouver

A: We were really hoping for social-housing investment to deal with our homeless crisis here.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Missing hedge-fund manager surrenders

Florida hedge-fund manager Arthur Nadel, who disappeared just as he was due to pay \$50 million to investors, has turned himself in to authorities. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

15

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Carney sees rebound

Bank chief says sustained deflation unlikely

The Bank of Canada governor is sticking to his rosy view of the prospects for Canada's economy, saying the country is unlikely to suffer from a sustained bout of deflation.



"The issues of financial stability that were once the obsession of a pessimistic few are now the daily concern of many."

Mark Carney

However, Mark Carney stressed yesterday that his reassuring prediction — coming less than a week after he suggested the economy would strongly rebound next year — was predicated on two conditions.

The former Wall Street investment banker said stability had to return to global financial markets

and the massive stimulus packages proposed for Canada and the United States had to be effective.

But Carney stressed several times that international financial markets remained in bad shape, which could threaten Canada's recovery.

"The issues of financial stability that were once the

obsession of a pessimistic few are now the daily concern of many," he said

He said there's only a remote possibility sustained deflation will take hold though he expects inflation to dip below zero in the second and third quarters of this year before returning to two per cent in 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In brief



SHORTER Kellogg Co. is testing a new shorter and deeper version of its cereal box to address concerns that the traditional taller, thinner boxes are difficult to fit into cupboards. The new size is the most significant innovation in cereal boxes since the 1950s.

MARKETS Oil prices tumbled sharply yesterday with more evidence of decline in the U.S. housing industry, more job cuts and plunging consumer confidence. Crude for March delivery lost \$4.15 a barrel, or nine per cent, to settle at \$41.58 US on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The Canadian dollar was down a modest 0.14 cent to 81.55 cents US. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Businesses cheer Flaherty's vow of \$200B in financing

Business groups applauded measures in the proposed federal budget to increase access to credit and cut taxes. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty pledged to make up to \$200 billion in liquidity and financing available to Canadian businesses through a variety of government measures.

Under the plan, Ottawa would provide businesses with access to additional fi-

ancing of \$13 billion through financial Crown corporations.

Agencies such as the Export Development Corporation and the Business Development Bank of Canada would have greater lending powers. A portion of the funds, about \$5 billion, will be provided through the new Business Credit Availability Program.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Corning cuts jobs as profit slumps

LCD Corning Inc., the world's largest maker of liquid-crystal-display glass, said yesterday it is cutting 3,500 jobs, or 13 per cent of its payroll, as demand slumps for glass used in flat-screen televisions and computers. It said its fourth-quarter profit plunged 65 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grocer Metro has good first quarter

PROFITS Grocery store operator Metro Inc. recorded its best first quarter in four years despite enduring competition in Ontario and a weakened economy.

A better performance by its Ontario grocery stores lifted Metro's first-quarter profits 9.9 per cent to \$81.1 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sports

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Heat forces Djokovic out

The Melbourne heat forced Novak Djokovic to throw in the towel during his Australian Open quarter-final match against Andy Roddick yesterday. The third-ranked Serb looked increasingly woozy and had to give up while trailing 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2, 2-1, allowing Roddick to claim a spot in the semifinals against Roger Federer.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

To fight or not to fight

A slim majority of Canadians believe NHL fights should be banished to the penalty box — for good — a new poll suggests.

A Canadian Press/Harris-Decima survey conducted during the NHL all-star weekend indicates 54 per cent of the Canadian public think fighting should be ousted from the league. Forty per cent believe it should remain.

But the same question posed to the most passionate NHL fans revealed that 68 per cent think players should continue to duke it out.

The poll indicated that only 30 per cent of people who follow the NHL closely say the league should eliminate fisticuffs from the game.

"Opinion is pretty split on this issue. There's a

slight majority overall among Canadians that say that they think fighting should probably be banned from hockey," said Jeff Walker, Harris-Decima's senior vice-president.

Tale of the tape

- Among Conservative party supporters, 48 per cent support fighting, compared with 38 per cent of Liberals.
- Thirty-seven per cent of Canadians who earn less than \$60,000 a year, 46 per cent of those who make between \$60,000 and \$100,000 annually and 43 per cent of people who bring home more than \$100,000 support fights.

"However, you've got a core group of hockey fans — the most ardent fans — who do not want fighting banned from hockey at all."

The debate over fighting in the NHL was reignited in recent weeks after Ontario senior league player Don Sanderson, 21, died following a fight in which he hit his head on the ice.

Last week, Garrett Klotz of the Philadelphia Phantoms was taken off the ice on a stretcher after suffering a seizure following a bout in the AHL.

The NHL plans to officially examine the role of fighting in the game during the GMs' meeting in March.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs Lost in the Wild



The Leafs' Jamal Mayers is checked by Minnesota centre Kris Kolanos last night. Toronto was hammered 6-1 as rookie goalie Justin Pogge received little help in front of him.

PAUL BATTAGLIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Crucial week ahead for Raptors

The significance of this week is not lost on the Raptors, who continue to try to climb out of a deep, dark hole they created for themselves in a brutal first half of the NBA season.

And for all the one-game-at-a-time, it's-the-process-not-the-results philosophy they espouse, they are admitting that games tonight in New Jersey and Friday at home to Milwaukee carry a little extra juice.

"It was the first thing we addressed today," coach Jay Triano said after yesterday's practice. "Where we are, where they are and what

Tonight



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this week means to us."

Where the Raptors are is 18-28 and in 13th place in the 15-team Eastern Conference. But as bad as that record is — and it's quite bad with only eight teams in the entire league worse off than Toronto — it's not as if the season is all the way in the toilet.

The Nets occupy ninth place with a 20-25 record and the Bucks, who have lost leading scorer Michael Redd for the season with a knee injury, are in eighth with a paltry 20-25 record. The 19-25 Knicks, 18-26 Charlotte Bobcats and 18-27 Chicago Bulls began play last night also between the Raptors and the final play-off berth.

Beating the Nets often comes down to stopping the high-scoring duo of Vince Carter and Devin Harris, both of whom average 21 points per game.

"We're talking about two guys who could potentially

be on the all-star team," said Triano. "We have to stop their drives, stop their open looks and, hopefully, they don't get it rolling because both of those guys have hurt us this year when they've got on a roll."

Adding to the significance of tonight's game is Toronto's need for a win to split a four-game season series with the Nets.

It's not too early to start thinking about tiebreakers — at least not in Triano's mind — and a New Jersey win gives the Nets a leg up on Toronto.

"(The game is) very significant." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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London tickets go fast

The first 70,000 tickets for the NFL's third regular-season game in London, England in October have been sold, the NFL said yesterday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

sports **17**



The Cardinals' Bertrand Berry has his bicep measured by Ines Sainz of TV Azteca during Super Bowl XLIII media day in Tampa yesterday.

Steeler Sunday?

Super Bowl looks like a mismatch

NFL Super Bowl XLIII

I am a football addict and have not missed a Super Bowl game. Never. I have, I confess, witnessed every single second of all 42 Super Bowls — whether as a tot in my parents' family room, at friends' parties, in the stands of the stadiums where some of the games were played, working in the press box at several, in a rowdy establishment slouching over a table with beer, or alone with popcorn in the privacy of my den.

And, naturally, I'll watch the 43rd Super Bowl somewhere this Sunday, when the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals clash helmets.

I'm not especially jazzed up about this one, however, and I know I'm not alone.

Last year in Arizona, when the heavily favoured New England Patriots were supposed to shred the New York Giants in the 42nd Super Bowl, scalpers exploited overwhelming fan interest and sold tickets for beyond \$10,000 apiece. This week,

I'm told, you can buy the finest Super Bowl seat in the house in Tampa Bay for less than \$3,000.

The recession is partly responsible, unquestionably, but there's general apathy, too, as many football fanatics fear a major mismatch.

Oh, I know that's what

YorkReport

Marty
York

marty.york@metronews.ca

folks said last year, before the Pats and the Giants met. New England, though, created a buzz because of the undefeated/historical season it aimed to record. And then the Giants went and upset them. And, sure, the Cards could defy logic as seven-point underdogs and could pull off another miracle Sunday.

They could, but they won't. Consider:

- Team histories: Pittsburgh has a rich, winning tradition and can garner a record sixth Super Bowl victory Sunday. "I knew when I

got drafted I'd be in the playoff hunt every year," Pittsburgh defensive end **Brett Keisel** said. "We ooze success." Arizona, meanwhile, has never been in a Super Bowl and has qualified for the playoffs only three times since 1976.

- Defences: No Super Bowl team had permitted more than 360 points in a season until these Cards, who coughed up 426. Pittsburgh gave up 223 points and led the NFL in fewest yards allowed.

- Regular-season scores: The most points Pittsburgh surrendered in a game this season were 21 — in a 26-21 triumph. Arizona was beaten twice by 21 points, once by 28 and once by 40. No previous Super Bowl team lost a game by 21 or more points in the regular schedule.

You get the picture. This could be one of those not-so-classic Super Bowl routs. Like: Pittsburgh 28, Arizona 9.

Yep, that bad. Regardless, I'll watch every second. Don't plan to snap my streak just yet.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Sports in brief

NFL A Philadelphia man shot with a gun owned by Indianapolis Colts receiver Marvin Harrison is headed to trial today. He is accused of lying to police. Dwight Dixon is due in Philadelphia municipal court on three charges of making false sworn statements, according to court records.

CFL Two Toronto Argonauts bolted to the NFL yesterday. Veteran cornerback Byron Parker and receiver P.K. Sam, who joined the Argos last year,

signed with the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles and Buffalo Bills, respectively. Both were in the option years of their CFL deals, allowing them to sign contracts south of the border. The Argos also hired Richard Kent, 48, as their secondary coach.

NHL Pittsburgh Penguins forward Matt Cooke has been suspended for two games for hitting Carolina forward Scott Walker in the head during a game last week.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Minnesota 6 **TORONTO** 1
New Jersey 4 **Ottawa** 1
Tampa Bay 5 **Montreal** 3
Boston 3 **Washington** 2 (OT)
Columbus 3 **Detroit** 2 (OT)
Florida 3 **Philadelphia** 2
N.Y. Rangers 3 **Carolina** 2
Atlanta at Dallas
San Jose at Colorado
Buffalo at Edmonton
Anaheim at Phoenix

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
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Cleveland 117 **Sacramento** 110
Denver at Memphis
San Antonio at Utah
Charlotte at L.A. Lakers

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Metro Drive

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Taking Dakar on diesel

Volkswagen has become the first automobile manufacturer to win the Dakar Rally with a diesel-powered vehicle, with its Race Touareg TDIs taking first and second place, Canadian Driver reports. The prestigious endurance race took place in Argentina and Chile.

METRO MEWS SERVICES

Think beyond family car

Canadian, American inspirations behind Toyota Venza

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

Toyota calls the 2009 Venza the most North American car it has ever built.

And in the next breath officials also call it one of the most important cars in the company's history.

Well, when you already have Corolla, Camry and Matrix, then a lot has to be riding on this next vehicle.

At the launch of the 2009 Venza in the hills of Pennsylvania, Toyota opened the presentation by declaring the Venza as a whole new kind of family car that isn't really a family car. It's hard to put a label on Venza. It blurs the line between station wagon, crossover and luxury car. About the closest thing to it in concept is the Mercedes-Benz R-Class. With a price said to start at under \$30,000, I guess you



Toyota says the 2009 Venza will be available with a four-cylinder or V6 engine and front- or all-wheel-drive starting at "under \$30,000."

could think of it as R-Class light.

This is the first Toyota ve-



The 60/40 rear seats can be folded to create an almost flat cargo floor with one touch.

hicle specifically aimed at North Americans, designed in California and built in Kentucky. Canadians were the inspiration for the side rocker panels that are covered by the door panel to keep out slush and snow. Because the rockers are at nearly the level of the floor, there is no step over to get in. So when you get in and out in the winter, and your pant legs brush the sill, they won't get wet or muddy.

With a length of 4.8 m, the wheelbase is a full 2,775 mm larger, which makes for sizeable passenger vol-

ume. To lower the roof as much as possible while retaining enough headroom for stadium-style second row seating, Toyota stylists came up with the clever idea of minimizing gaps.

The bonus is Venza looks very slick. By adding in 19- and 20-inch alloy wheels on the four-cylinder and V6 models respectively, the Venza comes across as a concept car that made it to the street.

The interior is outstanding in its little details. There is a power point on the transmission wall with a cubbie just

below for the front passenger. The 60/40 rear seat has a one-touch fold-down lever. That is in addition to remote back seat releases grafted into each rear cargo wall. The back seats recline for extra comfort.

Another thing I found was a character line across the dash running into each front door where it then widens and creates a recess that is also an armrest.

Fuel numbers for the four-cylinder FWD are 10.0/6.8/8.5L/100 km city/highway/combined re-



These are the centre stack controls for the 2009 Venza. Note the cupholder that slides back and forward.

2009 Toyota Venza

Type: Five-passenger wagon

Price: Not available

Engine: 2.7-litre, four-cylinder, 16-valve DOHC; 3.5-litre DOHC V6

HP: 182-268

Highlights

- Slick looks
- Lots of room

spectively. For the AWD, they are: 10.2/7.1/8.8L/100 km. For the V6 FWD/AWD they are 11.0/7.6/9.5L/100 km and 11.5/7.9/9.9L/100 km city/highway/combined.

It looks like in trying to create the next generation North American car, Toyota has sensed an emerging trend and is ready to move on it.



Saved by auto brakes? Thank your lucky lasers

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

Veteran auto journalist

The last time I was so impressed with lasers it was 1977, and the Blue Oyster Cult were on stage at the Kitchener-Waterloo Auditorium. We heard their laser show was legendary, but to see it in person, and under such loud circumstances, was, well, heavy

man. It made my centre-parted hair stand on end.

Fast forward to October 2008 and I'm driving a 2010 Volvo XC60, at its world launch in Valencia, Spain. One of Volvo's safety engineers is in the passenger seat going over the drill: maintain a speed of 25 km/hr; drive straight into that big balloon (which is shaped like a car); don't touch the brakes.

It's a weird feeling to intentionally drive straight into an object, however fluffy it might look. But I manage to not brake and with the backside of the balloon car looming large, some brain inside the XC60 suddenly

"It's a weird feeling to intentionally drive straight into an object, however fluffy it might look. But I manage to not brake ... some brain inside the (Volvo) XC60 suddenly brakes for me."

brakes for me. The XC60 stutters to an ABS-enabled stop. No damage to persons or property.

Sometimes it's hard to get excited about safety (hey Bob, come over and check out this thing's crumple zone!), but this system is pretty cool. Volvo calls it City Safety, and it is their response to two surprising statistics: 75 per cent of all re-

ported collisions take place at speeds up to 30 km/hr; in 50 per cent of those collisions, the driver does not brake at all, mainly because he or she is distracted.

A laser sensor integrated into the windshield (near the rear-view mirror), detects vehicles and other objects up to 10 metres in front of the XC60's front bumper. The system does

loads of math to see if there will be an impact if the driver continues to be MIA. At that point, it will do what it did during our simulated adventure: engage the brakes, shut down the throttle, flash the brake lights.

Even if it can't avoid a collision, it will do its thing to reduce the force of the collision.

Insurance companies are super interested in City Safety, for obvious reasons, and are planning to offer discounts to XC60 owners.

As good as this thing is, it's obviously not supposed to relieve the driver of his or her responsibility for maintaining a safe distance

— or for staying focused on the task at hand. That goes for the passengers too; in my books there's nothing like a good front-seat screamer to keep the driver honest.

That said, Volvo engineers called this new crossover, "probably the safest car in the world ... for sure the safest Volvo we've ever built."

They have lasers to thank for much of that, and I'm not surprised. Those darn things are so versatile.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Carry on Carrera

Porsche's iconic model keeps getting better

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada



You know there is a shift afoot in the car business when a portion of Porsche's advertising budget for the 2009 911 Carrera is devoted to its fuel economy. This, from the company that sells ballistic 911 Turbos and a variety of thirsty V8-powered Cayenne SUVs.

In truth, Porsche's sports cars have always been fairly sanctimonious fuel-sippers considering their outstanding performance potential.

For 2009, Porsche has applied some of its engineering acumen to enable its sports cars do what they do best — go fast, turn hard, and make wonderful sounds — while using even less fuel.

The dry-sump 3.6 L horizontally-opposed six in the base 2009 911 Carrera (\$94,800) has a new crankcase, new cylinders and cylinder heads, and now features direct injection.

It is slightly more compact than the previous 3.6L engine and sits a little lower in the subframe, improving the car's centre of gravity. Power jumps from 325 to 345 horsepower, and torque increases by 15 lb.-ft. to 288. According to Porsche, fuel economy improves by up to 13 per cent.

The other big news from Porsche is the availability of a new seven-speed twin-clutch transmission that replaces the aging five-speed Tiptronic S autobox. Dubbed "Porsche-Doppelkupplungsgetriebe" (PDK for short, thank you), this high-tech cog-swapper uses the same technology first seen in the VW/Audi six-speed DSG transmission. It is essentially two transmissions in one casing: A clutch and cogs for even gears and another for odd and reverse. Mucho computer mojo anticipates and preselects the next gear, providing fast and smooth gear changes without the tradition torque converter losses. These transmissions really are



The 2009 Porsche 911 Carrera PDK

DreamCar

the way of the future, and Porsche's PDK is an impressive new player.

Much of the outstanding 10.5L/100 km fuel economy I achieved over my test week (granted, I was driving normally with very little "fun" time) can be attributed to the PDK. In full auto mode, with a light touch on the throttle, this thing will short-shift like your granny on the way to bingo — the tach needle won't swing above 2000 rpm.

Does this sound like typical 911 behaviour? Has Porsche gone all soft on us? Hardly.

Exercise the right Nike, and all the intrinsic elements of the 911 experience leap to the forefront. You want character? This ass-engined icon has buck-ets of the stuff. The flat six sings its magical song (albeit a little more quietly in the '09s) and delivers its power in a linear rush. The



Porsche has evolved the Tiptronic thumb toggles into a pair of ergonomic push-me pull-you thingies that straddle the top of each steering wheel spoke.

steering comes alive in your hands, and the car grips and turns as only a rear-wheel-drive 911 can. Every motoring enthusiast deserves to experience this at least once in a lifetime.

Some auto scribes have taken issue with Porsche's new-for-2009 steering wheel mounted shift mechanism. While just about every automaker from Ferrari to Mitsubishi use good ol' paddle shifters, Porsche has evolved the Tiptronic

thumb toggles into a pair of ergonomic push-me pull-you thingies that straddle the top of each steering wheel spoke. Using either hand, pressing ahead with the thumb calls for an up-shift while pulling back with the index and middle finger brings a downshift.

Yes, at first it's a bit weird, but after a few days in the saddle the system feels perfectly natural. In auto mode, the shifters function but the tranny reverts to self-shifting

2009 Porsche 911 Carrera	
Type:	Sports coupe
Price:	from \$94,800
Engine:	3.6L direct-injection flat-six
HP:	345
Highlights	
- Improved Fuel efficiency - New seven-speed twin-clutch transmission	

after eight seconds.

Manual mode is accessed by tapping the floor-mounted shifter to the left gate, and here it won't shift until you tell it — even if you're bumping up against the rev limiter.

As good as the PDK is, I would probably save the \$5560 and stick with the six-speed manual transmission only because it is such a joy to operate. Something for everybody with the 2009 911 Carrera. Incredibly, this car just keeps getting better.

All charged up with Mitsubishi

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News



Right now, most major manufacturers are desperate to slap a "hybrid" badge on their car's bottoms. Smart and MINI might be testing their electric vehicles (EV) but Mitsubishi is one of the few auto companies that have been focusing on getting one on your drive as soon as possible.

Mitsubishi has been working on battery-powered cars since the 90s and it's now launching its first EV. The MiEV (Mitsubishi Innovative Electric Vehicle) is an electric version of its spacious 4-seater petrol 'i' city car.

Mitsubishi has ba-

Mitsubishi has been working on battery-powered cars since the '90s and it's now launching its first electric vehicle, the MiEV.

sically replaced the mid-rear engine of this striking Japan-built car with Lithium-ion batteries, so it feels like you're driving a regular car.

In fact it actually handles better than the petrol version because the heavy batteries give it a low centre of gravity.

With speeds of up to 140 km/h it's not scary taking a blast on the motorway, and if you're crawling through city traffic, the

"eco" mode reduces power from 47kw to 18kw.

The most noticeable difference is the silence, mounting to a space-car whiz when you boost towards 100km/h. And of course you have to plug it in — seven hours for a full charge, or to 80 per cent in 30 minutes if you buy a Quick Charger.

The MiEV is cheap to run even if it won't be cheap to buy. It has a range of up to 160km, the qualities of a mainstream car including dealers to service it and eco-brownie points all packaged up in cool Japanese design.



Cool EVs



Tango

- One of the few of these skinny, high-speed electric cars is owned by George Clooney. Costs more than \$100,000.



Tesla Roadster

- The electric sportscar Tesla Roadster is a hit with speed freaks with its 0-100kph of just 3.9 seconds.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Finalists announced

AWARDS The top three finalists for overall 2009 Canadian Car of the Year and the Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year were announced last week.

The main contenders for 2009 Canadian Car of the Year are the Hyundai Genesis, Mazda6 and the Toyota Corolla. The top three finalists for 2009 Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year are the Ford Flex, Mercedes-Benz M-Class, and the Subaru Forester.

The winners will be declared Wednesday, Feb. 11 at

the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto. The winners of the Best New Design award and the Best New Technology award will also be declared at that time.

The top three finalists for 2009 Best New Design are the Honda Fit, Jaguar XF Supercharged and the Volkswagen Passat CC and in running for 2009 Best New Technology are the General Motors On-Star Stolen Vehicle Slowdown, the Infiniti Around View Monitor and the Mitsubishi Super-All-Wheel Control. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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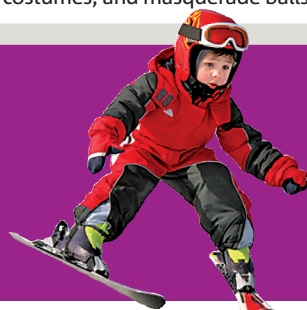
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Mardi Gras in the U.S. means New Orleans. In South America, it's Brazil and, in Europe, it's Venice. But in the Caribbean, Trinidad is the place to be for carnival, with parades, elaborate costumes, and masquerade balls. For information on this year's festival visit goTrinidadandTobago.com. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Travel



Family ski deal

Fairmont Hot Springs Resort in Fairmont, B.C. has launched a Family Learn to Ski Package that combines ski lessons, a snowshoe chocolate fondue, soaking in its natural mineral hot springs and more. The package is suited to a family of four (two adults and two youth or children) that's new to skiing or boarding and wants to enjoy a worry-free learning experience. Visit fairmonthotsprings.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Darling, shall we meet for tea?

London brims with hot spots to join in this beloved ritual

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News



Afternoon tea is much more than a meal, it's dining experience.

Invented by a hospitable and peckish Duchess of Bedford in the early 19th century, this most English of rituals includes a selection of delicate sandwiches with the crusts cut off, tasty cakes and scones slathered with clotted cream and jam, washed down with gallons of tea drunk from delicate tea cups. Forget the Ritz, which is the most famous place to try it, and graze your way through the afternoon at one of these superlative options.

Traditional

Brown's Hotel: The most genteel place to sit down for afternoon tea, Brown's has been hosting the British institution since the hotel opened more than 160 years ago.

Select an armchair to sink into in this distinguished wood-panelled lounge, and you can get started on a serious tower of afternoon treats including elegant finger sandwiches, fresh scones and traditional home made cakes and pastries.



The super stylish deVille restaurant at The Mandeville Hotel is host to the Fashion Tea for two, inspired by colourful and flamboyant British fashion designer Zandra Rhodes and her trademark colour, pink.

Be sure to try the Cornwall-produced tea, exclusive to Browns, and if you really plan to bed in, order a few glasses of Tattinger.

Tea time: Mon to Fri 3-6 p.m., Sat and Sun 2-6 p.m.

Cost: From \$60.

Location: Albemarle Street, W1S 4BP

Info: brownshotel.com

Trend-setter

The Mandeville Hotel

The super stylish deVille restaurant at the Mandeville hotel with its

trendy flock wallpaper and floral sculptures is host to the Fashion Tea for two, inspired by colourful and flamboyant British fashion

designer Zandra Rhodes. As well as delicious sandwiches, and home-baked scones served Rhodes-designed fine bone china decorated with pale pink and blue butterflies, you can snack on pastries including chocolate fudge brownies, lemon tarts and cupcakes in Rhodes' trademark colour, pink.

For the gentlemen there's the Men's Afternoon Tea, with macho roast sirloin sandwiches and chicken satays followed by hearty chocolate brownies and washed down with fine whiskies.

Tea time: Mon to Sat., 3-5:30 p.m.

Cost: From \$40.

Location: The Mandeville Hotel, Mandeville Place, W1U 2BE.

Info: mandeville.co.uk

Girly

The Athenæum:

The most ladylike of afternoon teas, the

Athenæum's Pink Tea is hosted in the newly refurbished ground floor, with its sunken secret garden, silk drapes and freshly cut Damask roses. Everything in this decadent tea is pink; for first course are smoked salmon, freshly carved ham and mustard and poached salmon and dill open sandwiches, followed by warm, bite-sized scones with cream and homemade strawberry jam. You'll be fuelled with a glass of pink Champagne before cherry-picking from the trolley — light and crisp raspberry macaroons, strawberry meringues, fairy cakes and mini strawberry tartlets, all prepared by the Athenæum's pastry chefs. Still not satiated? Then dip into the giant glass jars of strawberry jellybeans, marshmallows and candy sticks.

Tea time: 2:30-6 p.m.

Cost: From \$45.

Location: Athenæum Ho-

tel, 116 Piccadilly, W1J 7BJ.

Info: athenaeumhotel.com

Fashionista

The Berkeley Hotel

The perfect choice for the shopaholic, the Berke-

ley Hotel's fabulous fashion-themed tea, Pret-à-Portea, features cakes and pastries inspired by the current season's catwalk designs served up on exclusively-designed Paul Smith striped fine bone china.

Highlights for Autumn/Winter include an Alexander McQueen fro-mage blanc chiffon dress balanced with raspberry meringue, Christian Dior duo of apple and hot pink cassis mousse & elegant fondant hat, and a Prada dark lace Valrhona chocolate crème.

Carb-cutting fashionistas will enjoy the sophisticated taster spoons and canapés that replace traditional afternoon tea sandwiches, and can take home unfinished treats in a handbag-shaped doggy bag. You can also get the Pret-à-Portea delivered on their pistachio-green-and-pale-pink Vespa.

Tea time: 2-6 p.m. daily.

Cost: From \$60.

Location: The Caramel Room at The Berkeley, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, SW1X 7RL.

Info: the-berkeley.co.uk



The Berkeley Hotel's fabulous fashion-themed tea features cakes and pastries inspired by the current season's catwalk designs.



At the Berkeley Hotel, you can have your tea and pastries delivered on their pistachio-green-and-pale-pink Vespa.

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Destination: Beer

A California couple spent 2008 visiting great beer destinations around the world, taking in 90 breweries and festivals from Anchorage, Alaska's Great Alaska Beer & Barley Wine Festival in January to the Belgian Kerstbierfestival in December. See yearinbeer.com. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

travel **25**

Rainforest meets the beach

Costa Rica is packed with attractions, natural beauty and places to relax

ANDERS FALKIRK
Metro World News



Costa Rica — the tiny country tucked between Nicaragua and Panama in the strip that links Latin America to the U.S. — is packed with attractions.

Amazing nature, an exciting capital city, luxurious beach life, pioneering eco-tourism and home to more than five per cent of the world's flora and fauna species. So, how to choose? Here are four ideas:

Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve: A late discovery

Costa Rica's most famous natural attraction are the clouded forests of Monteverde, high up in the mountain chain, Cordillera de Tilarán. The mountains were charted as late as the 1980s by American biologists and immediately became an attraction thanks to the beautiful and abundant flora and fauna there.

Unfortunately there's plenty of theme park tourism here including cable-gliding between tree-tops and guided tours on quadbikes. However it is easy to escape this commercial side of Monteverde by venturing into the nature reserves of Reserva Biológica Bosque Nuboso Monteverde or Reserva Santa Helena, where only boots and backpacks are allowed — and the mystique of the clouded forest is preserved.

The unique reserve is home to more than 400



bird species, 490 types of butterfly, 100 species of mammal, 2,500 plant species — 500 of which are orchids. Keep an eye out for the sacred bird of the Maya Indians and the area's symbol, the quetzal, with its splendid metallic green back, red belly and tail of long feathers.

Corcovado: Beach life with a difference

If Monteverde is too much of a drive-through jungle for your taste there are of course more challenging eco-experiences in Costa Rica — for example in Parque Nacional Corcovado by the Pacific ocean.

The park is situated on a peninsula by the border to Panama. It was named "the most biologically intense place on earth" by National Geographic magazine.

Here rainforest, swamps, rivers and beautiful sandy beaches meet. There's an enormous range of animals here: Baird's tapir, Giant Anteater, Capuchin monkeys, the timid central American jaguar, sea turtles and many types of dolphins. The best place to spot these creatures are the beaches, where the constant noise from the battering waves makes it possible for hikers to walk almost undetected.

Camping costs a few dollars at ranger stations in the national park, and there are bunk beds at Sirena, from \$10 a night.

San José: The small but fun capital city

San José isn't a spectacular big city, but it is exciting all the same. The central areas feature a mix of colonial architecture with office blocks from the 1960s, and the streets are filled with crowds of salesmen, students and office workers.

In Escazú and the more fashionable suburbs there are modern shopping centres and more luxurious restaurants. In the universi-



Relax on one of Costa Rica's many beaches, including Malpaís Beach, left, or venture into the capital San José and visit historical attractions like The Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, above.

If You Go

Where to stay: Anywhere from hostels to all-inclusive resorts. Prices are reasonable.

What to eat: There are restaurants to suit all budgets, but the most fun is going to a "soda," a mix of cheap local restaurant and fast

food stand.

Languages: Spanish, though English is widely spoken.

Currency: \$1 = 458 Colones. Most stores, restaurants and hotels accept U.S. dollars. Cash machines are surprisingly common.

ty areas San Pedro and Los Yoses there are lots of bars and clubs.

There are fun things to do everywhere in town. San José is relatively safe, but crime does exist, so visitors shouldn't walk around the city alone at night, and watch for pickpockets.

Santa Teresa: Surfing and jetsetting

It isn't easy to get to Santa Teresa by the Pacific, but it is well worth the effort. The beach goes on for miles, the sea feels infinite and the coast is lined with lush green forests.

There is no untouched nature here, with the ex-

ception of National park Cabo Blanco and its howler monkeys. Away from the coast there is an idyllic countryside with tiny villages, children playing, chickens, flowering gardens and senior citizens resting in rocking chairs.

Santa Teresa itself, and the neighbouring village Malpaís, consists of a series of restaurants, bars, hostels, yoga hotels and private villas host celebrities, including Leonardo DiCaprio, Mel Gibson and Kate Moss.

But far from being glitzy, the beaches and nightlife belong to the surfers, which gives the place a laidback and groovy atmosphere.

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The Eiffel core

A look at what goes on behind the scenes of Paris' most famous tower

A model of refined simplicity on the outside, the iron lady that symbolizes Paris is a complicated piece of work inside her elegant A-line figure.

Custom-fitted pumps, heaters and long-life bulbs keep the 119-year-old Eiffel Tower working and sparkling, while industrial-sized cogs, gears and cables spin, bump, grind and purr deep inside the structure's innards, in places no tourists see.

Caring for the monument's hidden core is a daunting, sometimes dangerous task that goes on out of sight but keeps the tower looking its picture-postcard best. More than 500 people — from welders and plumbers to security guards and cooks — work within the structure.

"It's a village here, full of life and very specific life forms," said Yves Camaret, technical director of the company that runs the tower, as he led The Associated Press on a tour of its many no-go areas.

Cavernous basements tucked beneath the tower's legs house massive hydraulic motors that power the two visitors' elevators. Descending the spiral staircase into the "fosse," or pit, is like stealing onto the set of Modern Times, Charlie Chaplin's 1936 vision of industrial society. Oversized cogs spin slowly, gears painted vibrant primary colours chug, and metal cables with the circumference of a dessert plate uncoil and recoil like anacondas.

A 3,785-litre tank full of



Electricians are seen at work atop the Eiffel Tower.

On the web

• Visit tour-eiffel.fr/teiffel/uk.

water, which was once pumped in from the nearby Seine, provides the counterbalance needed to hoist the roughly 18,000 visitors per day up to the 115-metre-high second-level landing.

The motor's myriad clanking parts need frequent oiling, and workers inspect them daily. Even a short, half-hour breakdown of one elevator can double the lines of visitors.

The company that manages the tower had a net profit of \$1.82 million in 2007. The money goes back to its shareholders which include the City of Paris.

It draws some seven million visitors annually, making it one of the world's top tourist attractions and a potential target for terrorists, though so far only in fantasy, as in the 1980 movie Superman II.

"It's a symbol, therefore it's a target," said Camaret. The tower's security detail is "extensive," he said, de-

clining to give details.

Guards also have to watch for suicides — one jumper a year on average, Camaret said. The last was a man who leaped to his death early last year, he said.

Designed by the tower's architect and namesake, Gustave Eiffel, the visitors' elevators were installed in 1899 — 10 years after the tower opened.

Together with the more modern elevators that go up to the 276-metre-high summit observation deck, they travel more than 100,000 kilometres up and down each year.

The wear and tear takes its toll. A restoration is under way to replace all the pieces of one of the aging, hydraulic motors. Exact copies of each and every original gear, wheel and screw are being cast in foundries in France and Germany, for \$28 million, said Eric Trahand, from the elevator maintenance team.

Aside from visitors, everything else goes up and down on a modern electric elevator.

From knickknacks on sale



A view of the ground access for suppliers is shown at the bottom of the Eiffel Tower's western pillar in Paris. Supplies for the two tower-top restaurants, celebrated French chef Alain Ducasse's chic Jules Verne and the casual Altitude 95, are ferried up a modern, electric elevator.

in the gift shop to baguettes and bubbly served in the restaurants — celebrated French chef Alain Ducasse's chic Jules Verne and the casual Altitude 95 — everything goes through X-ray machines. They are then packed into sealed containers, like padlocked refrigerators on wheels, for the trip into the sky.

Subterranean pumps send water shooting up to tower-top sinks and toilets.

Dozens of kilometres of plumbing are integrated into the structure of the mon-

ument, exposing the pipes to the elements. Mini-heater coils prevent them freezing when the thermometer drops, so the sinks run and toilets flush even in the harshest winters.

It takes a team of 30 painters working full-time over 18 months to spruce up the tower with a fresh coat of its signature bronze paint.

Even changing a light bulb becomes a major production.

To replace one of the 360 spotlights, specially trained

technicians don mountain-climbing gear to scale the iron crossbeams. Working in pairs for safety, they are fastened by nylon climbers' cords to the structure at all times, with their tools strapped to their belts to prevent accidents.

It can sometimes take the pair up to an hour to replace a single spotlight. Luckily, the 20,000 mini-flashbulbs that make the tower sparkle every hour on the hour throughout the night are guaranteed to last 10 years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Cherokee tourism goes online

The Cherokee Nation has launched a new website, CherokeeTourismOK.com, to showcase tribal cultural tourism in northeastern Oklahoma and make it easier for visitors to plan trips and book tours online. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

travel **27**

Sampling a most surprising snack

A traveller who makes a point of eating local delicacies may have finally met her match

TheTravelJunkie



Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

Balut is a nutrient-rich snack, an exotic delicacy and a challenge that could unsettle even the most daring of Fear Factor contestants.

It's a dish widely enjoyed in the Philippines and other parts of South East Asia and at first glance, it seems a lot like a hard-boiled egg. The only difference is that when you inspect the contents, you find the yolk is actually an 18-day-old fertilized duck embryo.

Balut has been described as a snack that's as common in Filipino culture as

hot dogs are in the U.S. It's most commonly eaten in the early evening with lots of salt and a nice cold beer.

On the streets of Manila, you'll find vendors on every corner selling warm eggs to hungry passersby. Just crack the egg open, peel the shell and add a pinch of sodium. Some eat the snack with a fork, though the usual way to scarf it down is with your bare hands.

Balut is valued as a good calcium hit, a cheap source of protein and a potent aphrodisiac. Countless people also love the taste, but to the uninitiated, the experience can

seem not so much gourmet as just plain gross.

The U.S.-based satirical site Cracked.com voted balut one of the "most terrifying foods in the world," and relates that balut is enjoyed in Cambodia, the Philippines and the fifth and seventh levels of hell.

When travelling, I like to keep an open mind and eat as the locals do, even if that means taking culinary challenges to the extreme. So I head to Pateros — a district 20 minutes outside of central Manila that's known as the balut capital of the Philippines — to try the thing for myself.

I visit a locally-owned balut factory where they process about 80,000 eggs a week. Half are sold as balut and the other half as salted eggs.

The owner, Andy Concio, takes me through the factory and explains that thousands of eggs are in-



Andy Concio, owner of a balut factory just outside of Manila, poses with bottles of preserved balut.

cubated in wooden chambers and heated at just the right temperature. The process of fertilization is regularly monitored using a device that looks like a pinhole camera.

He puts an egg under the light of a naked bulb and inspects it carefully. "The dark shape sloshing

around in the egg means the embryo is forming," he says. "If the light doesn't show the veiny liquid, the egg is infertile and cannot be used for balut."

Concio claims to be the first to preserve the product and export it as a non-perishable food item. His main customers are Fil-

Word Travels

• Catch the second season of Word Travels, a documentary series that follows the real-life adventures of travel writers Julia Dimon and Robin Esrock. It airs Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on OLN, with a repeat at 11:30 p.m.

ipino migrant workers living and working in Dubai, but his base is growing.

He plans to ship the product to the U.S., making it available to millions of South Asian ex-pats who miss their salty snack.

So what does balut taste like? I pick at an eggshell, then take a shot of the fluid inside. The liquid is warm and tastes like green tea. But the rest of the contents aren't so soothing. They remind me of dry, mealy turkey, the sort that's been hanging around much too long after Thanksgiving dinner.

I'm happy I tried balut — and still plan to keep sampling local dishes wherever I go — but I still feel a bit tongue-traumatized. And I may never be able to look at an egg the same way again.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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Hitting the snowmobile trails in New Brunswick

Each winter, thousands of people make northern New Brunswick their playground, and snowmobiles their toys of choice.

And why not? With more than 7,000 kilometres of groomed snowmobile trails and an average annual snowfall of 200 to 400 centimetres, it's easy to see why the province's winter tourism is called the White Gold Rush.

"It's a way of life. If you've got snow and can't play in it, you're not going to enjoy it," said Ross Antworth, general manager of the New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs.

"It's just a great way to enjoy winter with your family. It's a great way to take a winter vacation."

In northern areas of the province — between Miramichi and Edmundston — snow arrives early in December and stays until April.

Volunteers with the many clubs ensure the trail system is well groomed.

Most of the trails are



New Brunswick's winter tourism season is called the White Gold Rush, thanks to 7,000 kilometres of groomed snowmobile trails and average annual snowfall of 200 to 400 centimetres.

On the web

- New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, nbfscc.com.
- New Brunswick Tourism, tourismnewbrunswick.ca.

more than five metres wide, and in many cases use routes that would be logging roads at other times of the year. And the trails feature detailed signage and maps.

"It's virtually impossible to get lost up here," said Dave Brewster, vice-president of the Nepisiquid Snowmobile Club.

The trails give access to most areas of New Brunswick and allow you to get to and from Quebec, Nova Scotia and Maine. They are also interconnected, giving riders a choice of routes to loop back to their point of departure, or to travel long distances.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario outings

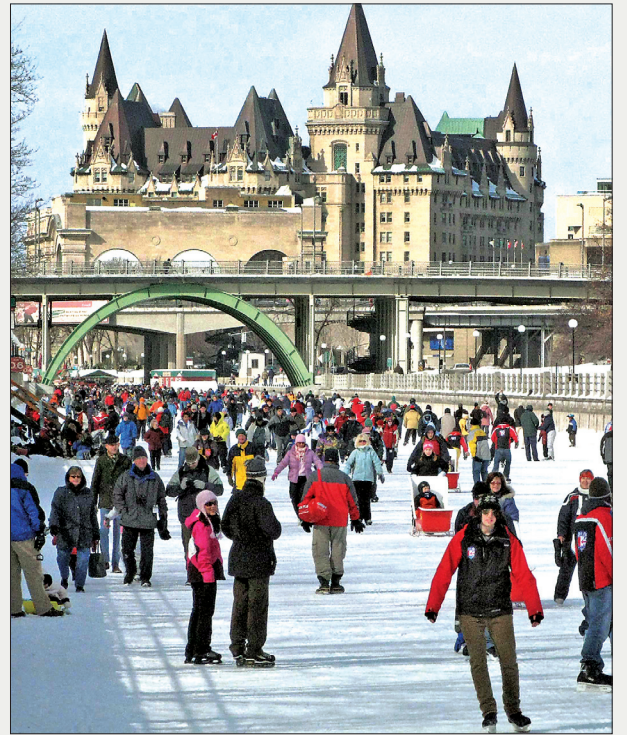
Winterlude

• What's everyone's favourite festival of frosty fun? Yes, Quebec's Winter Carnival is pretty happening, what with Bonhomme and all, but we're thinking of an event a bit closer to home. Ottawa's annual Winterlude festival, which takes place this year on the weekends of Feb. 6-8, Feb. 13-15 and Feb. 20-22, is a great chance to enjoy winter in an urban setting — and in a city that actually knows how to have fun in cold weather. This year's Winterlude will celebrate the 225th anniversary of the founding of the colony of New Brunswick and will premiere Ukiuk, a free outdoor sound and light show. Visit winterlude.ca for details.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

McMichael exhibit

• For an outing with a more serious bent — and all the advantages of being in a heated environment — head to the village of Kleinburg, Ont., on the northwest outskirts of Toronto, to the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. There, you'll take in historic paintings by Alex Colville, A.Y. Jackson and Pe-



The Chateau Laurier serves as a backdrop as thousands of people take to the Rideau Canal in Ottawa for the last day of Winterlude 2007. This year's festival runs Feb. 6 to 22.

gi Nicol MacLeod, which are among works featured in an exhibit of military art called A Brush with War: Military Art from Korea to Afghanistan. The exhibit's 49 works

depict Canadian military personnel at home and abroad, and will be on view until June 14. Visit mcmichael.com for further information.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Virginia giving away 40 trips in 40 weeks

Virginia tourism officials are giving away trips to mark the 40th anniversary of the state's "Virginia is for Lovers" marketing campaign. The Virginia Tourism Corporation says its sweepstakes is the largest vacation giveaway in state history. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Afraid to fly?

Virgin Atlantic's course uses humour and facts to beat your phobia

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News



The landing of the US Airways plane onto the Hudson was a display of staggering skill on the pilot's part — and hopefully it helps to reassure those scared of flying that emergency procedures can work to ensure passenger safety.

Usually the only time you hear about planes touching down on water is during the in-flight safety demonstration, but this showed it is possible get out of a plane that lands on water alive.

While we know incidents like this are actually extremely rare, flying feels like a pretty weird thing to do for humans — even frequent flyers can get nervous about taking off.

But if this latest drama just gave you a new danger to worry about — flocks of geese bringing down all the engines — then there's hope for you still.

You can read books or get hypnotized, but easier still is to beat it together with a group of people who are petrified of getting in a plane.

Over the last 10 years Virgin Atlantic's Flying Without Fear course has helped thousands of people overcome their phobia with an arsenal of scientific fact, psychology and dry humour.

Early one Sunday morning in a conference room at a hotel just outside the world's busiest airport, Heathrow, about 100 men and women who are petrified of getting on a plane have gathered in an attempt to get over their fears. They're all nervous — some

"We know that you're watching us. But if you see me on the phone looking anxious, it's not because the plane has run out of fuel and we're all about to die, it's because I've run out of the beef Stroganoff and we still have another 10 rows to feed."

David Gott, senior safety training instructor, Virgin Atlantic

are already in tears and one woman had to have hypnotherapy just to be here.

Turbulence, claustrophobia, engines on fire, terrorism, falling out of the sky, toilets that sound like they're going to suck you out of the plane — these are the reasons why some of these people have booked flights they've never boarded, have to get paralytic to get on a plane — there's even an actor who turned down the chance to star alongside Penelope Cruz in Sahara because it was being filmed in Morocco.

Fortunately Captain Dom, a pilot with Virgin Atlantic for 13 years is here to fight our fears with science. He is armed with a model plane that he moves around to demonstrate how a plane gets into the air and how it stays there. He explains the forces at work when an aircraft is in flight: The balance of lift, drag, thrust and weight of the plane. It's physics, he explains, and physics never changes.

Captain Dom demonstrates turbulence, Hollywood-style, with the model plane plunging towards the floor then rocketing back up again. In his 'reality' demonstration the plane flies in a steady line, and wobbles a bit. Apparently tur-

bulence is completely safe, and nobody has ever crashed as a result. He suggests that we think of air like we do water, or imagine that we are flying through thick, lumpy custard.

A plane might have four engines, explains Dom, but it only needs one to fly. If one fails, they shut it down, and if two or more fail, they take a diversion to the nearest airport. If all en-

gines fail, the plane can glide to safety.

On a reassuring note, he explains information is always shared between airlines so safety standards are improved with every incident.

By the end of the session we are amateur aerodynamics engineers and understand where the noises come from.

Next up is therapist Gillian Harvey-Bush who teaches us relaxation techniques including deep breathing and tapping, where you tap different parts of your body while thinking of a traumatic incident in order to eradicate your fears.

There are more encouraging words from David Gott, Senior Safety Training Instructor at Virgin Atlantic. "There's more to us than 'chicken, beef or fish — there's vegetarian too,'" he quips, before explaining how stewards are highly trained, so they restrain unruly passengers, take control in a medical emergency, deliver babies as well as mix the perfect gin and tonic.

"We know that you're watching us. But if you see me on the phone looking anxious, it's not because the plane has run out of fuel and we're all about to die, it's because I've run out of the beef Stroganoff and we still have another 10 rows to feed," he reveals. "If you see me looking stressed out when we sit down for landing, we're not about to plunge into the sea, it's because I've just heard that my colleague has five days in Mauritius and I'm doing New York and LA straight."

Finally it's time to brave the flight — a 20-minute round trip to Heathrow — and we take a bus to the airport where we go through the usual airport security procedures. All but five of the 100-odd group get on the plane.

Once over their initial alarm at the speed of take off, most are surprised to find themselves enjoying



Captain Dom, on-board LGW, has been a pilot with Virgin Atlantic for 13 years. He fights fear of flying with scientific fact.

Top 5 reassuring facts about flying

- The pilots and crew are constantly tested on their skill and knowledge.
- Put your faith in the crew. They wouldn't be working on the plane if it wasn't safe.
- You are thousands of times less likely to have fatal accident on a flight than on the road.
- All aircraft are checked by engineers before every flight. Did you check your tire pressures and fluid levels in your car this morning?
- Turbulence maybe uncomfortable, but it's not dangerous.

the flight — seeing others gripping the arms of their seats or tapping their collarbones, makes other passengers feel smug in their newfound confidence.

In fact, this is the experience of most of the passengers. The blonde girl who was a mess of tears and shaking at the start of the flight, does a delighted catwalk down the aisle halfway through the trip.

For these women and men who could break into a sweat just by seeing a plane on TV, it was a major tri-

umph just being able to get on a plane. Whether it was the scientific facts, the emotional tools or even just the knowledge that they are not alone that gave them strength, touching down marked the start of a new life, where a flight will just be the start of the holiday adventure.

On the web

- For more information visit: flyingwithoutfear.info

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The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame has added the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa, to its list of designated rock 'n' roll landmarks. The Surf was where Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens played their final gig on Feb. 2, 1959. The three died in a plane crash after the performance. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Experience Latin flavours

South America offers plenty of exciting holiday destinations

PAUL IRVINE
for Metro World News

If you're looking to arrange the holiday of a lifetime in South America, then look no further for inspiration.

I've spent the last five years travelling around South America, searching for exciting places and experiences in order to create unforgettable holidays for the clients of my specialist travel company, Dehouche. Here is my list of can't-miss experiences on the Latin continent:

Watching the sun set in Trancoso

A chic little village on Brazil's Bahia coastline, Trancoso is being hailed as the new St. Barths, with the likes of Naomi Campbell and Matt Damon holidaying and investing in beach houses here. For the ultimate experience, hop in a beach buggy and head inland to the valley of the buffalo, where you can have sundowners on the ridge above the valley and watch the buffalo graze as the shadows of the palms get longer and the red sky disappears — simply



You can experience spectacular views of Iguazu falls by flying over this natural phenomenon.

breathhtaking!

Cruising the Amazon

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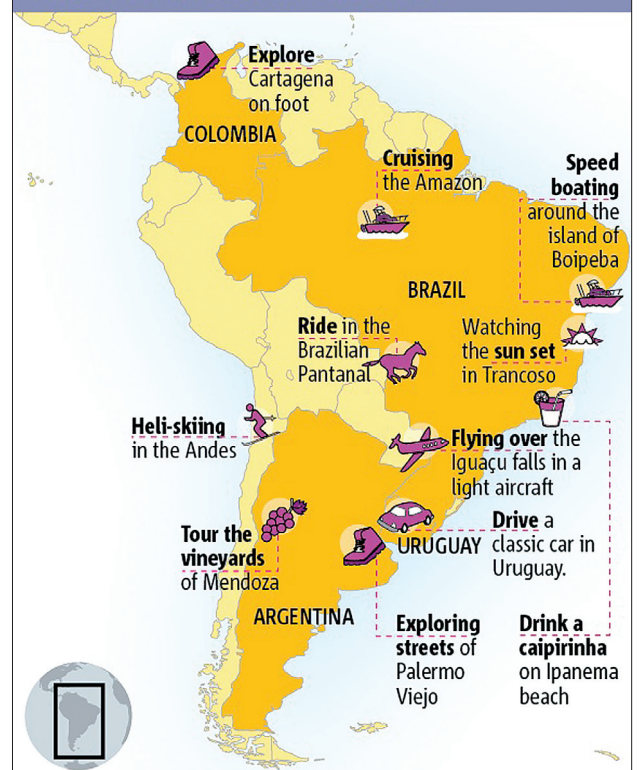
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pression called speedboat smile — an uncontrollable expression of joy only seen when aquaplaning across clear blue sea toward a floating bar, one kilometre off the island of Boipeba in Bahia, Brazil. Drop anchor and tuck into a grilled lobster, washed down with a caipirinha.

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falls, Iguazu falls is simply spectacular, but it is, of course, touristy — so we recommend flying over the falls in a private light aircraft en route to either

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Read more on [page 31](#) »

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Drink a caipirinha on Rio de Janeiro's celebrated Ipanema beach, above, or watch the sunset at Trancoso on Brazil's Bahia coastline. Right, explore the streets of Palermo Viejo.

<< Continued from page 30

Drink a caipirinha on Ipanema beach

It costs just \$1 and is served in a plastic cup, but boy does it taste good with the sand between your toes, the waves crashing against the beach and the sun setting on Rio's famous beach. This has to be one of life's greatest experiences.

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Try heli-skiing in the Andes for late summer skiing, top, or drive a classic car in Uruguay, below.



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Metro Workology exclusive: Curtain Call

Workology

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Real life CSI: More work, more time, less budget

Curtain Call

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

Although Staff Sgt. Dennis Buligan spends the better part of a 45-minute interview insisting crime scene investigation in Toronto is nothing like CSI, an hour-long tour through Toronto's Forensic Identification Services headquarters reveals the opposite.

The head of specialized operations for identification, Buligan makes sure to impress upon me, however, that the technology is there, but the results are different.

"We don't solve a crime in 90 minutes or an hour; it may take us weeks or months to solve a crime," he said.

The first room we enter is the lab where technician Const. Marty Doyle is sitting in the dark, intently shining a beam of green light onto a pile of bullets.

Horatio — er, Buligan — takes a gun from a rack holding half-a-dozen firearms and places it on the examination table; the collection is from a recent seizure and Doyle is documenting as many fingerprints as he can find.

Down the hall and through another door, I'm introduced to Pat Flynn, fingerprint technician.



Const. Marty Doyle, lab technician, left, and Staff Sgt. Dennis Buligan analyze a group of bullets from a recent Toronto seizure at the city's Forensic Identification Services headquarters.

He pulls up a pair of magnified prints on the computer's Automated Fingerprint Identification System and points out a number of miniscule green spots where he's circled imperfections, breaks in lines, gaps or changes in the pattern.

It turns out real life fingerprint analysis is much more difficult than the CSI version: It's only through hours of painstaking human analysis that fingerprints are matched. The computer comes up with a number of possibilities, then it's up to the human eye to do the rest.

"I used to have depth perception," Flynn says, laughing.

Next, we meet Jo Orsatti, a civilian and the Toronto police forensic artist. She demonstrates how she's aged photos of abducted children, drawn suspect mugs from witness descriptions and even recreated the faces of unidentified victims of horrific crimes who are no longer recognizable.

The program she uses is called C.A.R.E.S. and was developed by a Toronto forensic artist.

For our last stop on the tour, Lieut. Caine — uh, Staff Sgt. Buligan — walks me past the plan drawing room where the artist/architect is just closing up shop for the day. At the entrance stands a glass-encased model of the

"We don't solve a crime in 90 minutes or an hour; it may take us weeks or months to solve a crime."

Staff Sgt.
Dennis Buligan

home of Cecilia Zhang, the nine-year-old Toronto girl who was abducted from the bedroom of her family's home in 2003 and found murdered five months later.

It's a miniature replica of the entire house including the little girl's room, the suspect's path into the home and up the stairs and his escape route out the back. It was created for courtroom evidence purposes but was made irrelevant when the suspect pleaded guilty.

Back in Buligan's office, he says the main differences between CSI and the real thing, is that Toronto's version isn't quite as fortunate as Miami's.

"We don't have a budget like CSI," he says with a chuckle.

Still, it's all quite a bit more like CSI than he originally divulged.

It seems the true difference is the job is more challenging, time consuming and less of an exact science than Horatio and his team lead us to believe.

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workology **33**

Green burials the wave of the future?

Curtain Call

NOELLE MUNARETTO
for Metro Canada



Imagine a traditional North American burial and you're likely to think of everything from a thick, lacquered casket to a heavy tombstone. In reality, however, this form of interment is a relatively new concept considering our ancestors once buried the dead in an incredibly natural fashion.

Following this idea of returning a body to the earth in its most pure form, natural or green burials have become increasingly popular in both Canada and The United States after enjoying great success in The United Kingdom.

Royal Oak Burial Park in Victoria B.C. is the province's largest municipal cemetery and the first in Canada to have opened a natural burial site. Stephen Olson, the executive director of Royal Oak explains that after being approached by local citizens who desired natural burials, in 2006 the cemetery made a commitment



Modern burial practices are a relatively new concept considering our ancestors once buried the dead in an incredibly natural fashion.

to the community to open a site in the next two years.

Olson says the feedback he received to the decision was astounding.

"As soon as we were definitely going ahead with this, the amount of interest and amount of calls I got from local people was incredible. I've never seen

anything like that in this business," he says. "For people, the environment and the ecology and their awareness of them has increased exponentially over the past few years."

The natural interment zone, known as the Woodlands, officially opened in October 2008 and holds

space for 255 graves sites on a third of an acre. Though specific green burial methods may vary depending on the region, the common goal is to let the body decompose naturally.

At Woodlands, bodies are not treated with harsh embalming chemicals and are wrapped in natural fab-

ric. The bodies are then placed in a biodegradable container that could be made out of materials such as wicker or sustainable wood. After the body is buried without a grave liner, there are no markers or other items allowed directly on the grave. Instead inscriptions will be made on

five large memorial boulders that are located around the Woodlands periphery.

"What we're trying to do here is essentially match the ecosystem with where the burial plots are located," says Olson, who adds that plant species native to Victoria will be used to help re-forest the Woodlands site.

Mike Salisbury, the executive director of the Natural Burial Co-operative in Canada, envisions that by following a green burial model, the cemeteries of the future will actually resemble lush forests and family-friendly parks.

Since Salisbury says more people in Ontario are interested in pursuing this type of burial, the cooperative is currently working to obtain land in the province for a green site.

"What this is for people is a sense of value. They look at the conventional process and options and they don't see value in them," says Salisbury. "The whole circle of life thing is really what people get. There's something that feels good about allowing the circle to complete, and reaching a logical end."

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The British Columbia Institute of Technology has a new interactive microsite. Set up like a social networking site, whatwouldyouchange.ca members can upload photos and manipulate them to illustrate what kind of changes they'd like to see. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

2008: A tough year for employees

Most people believe that court decisions are too pro-employee. This is untrue. Despite employee-friendly workplace laws, Canadian em-

ployers sometimes get to call all the legal shots. Both employees and their lawyers should pause given some of the recent decisions of our courts:

- Fired employees may have to return to their old

jobs. Refusing to return to his work months after he was dismissed, Teamsters business agent Douglas Evans was accused of failing to avoid further losses, as dismissed employees have an obligation to take all rea-

sonable steps to find another job after having been fired. Until 2008, this obligation stopped short of requiring an employee to return to his or her former job. But in light of the Supreme Court's decision in Evans, this may now be exactly what is required.

- The point of "undue hardship" in accommodating an employee's disability at work has been rewritten. In Hydro Quebec, the Supreme Court ruled that a large organization, such as Hydro Quebec, was not required to create a new position in order to accommodate an absence-prone employee's particular illness. Accommodation does not require the employer to alter the essence of the contract, which is that the employee must perform his or her job, the Court wrote. Instead, if the proper operation of its business would be especially restricted, employers can fire disabled employees without infringing the human rights laws.

- Damages for the manner of dismissal are no longer "routine." After the Honda decision, employees

have been subtracting zeros from the value of their lawsuits as the Supreme Court limited mental distress and punitive damages in wrongful dismissal claim. In Honda, the Court also reminded employers that they are entitled to manage absenteeism in the workplace by closely monitoring specious claims for disability or chronic absenteeism.

- Drug and alcohol use may no longer constitute a "disability" under human rights legislation, meaning that employers might not be required to accommodate employees with an alcohol or drug dependency. In an Alberta appellate decision, the court upheld an employer's right to perform mandatory pre-employment alcohol and drug screening tests, arguing that the recreational use of drugs and alcohol is not protected under legislation.

- Resign with enough notice — and don't take customer lists with you. In the RBC case, the Supreme Court found that a group of employees who organized a mass departure that essentially crippled their employ-

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin

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er's office had no duty to compete fairly with their former employer. But not so fast. Even without the benefit of a non-solicit or non-compete agreement, employees must perform in good faith while still employed. Because they left without notice and took most of their clients with them, the group was ordered to pay damages.

- Be careful if you are going to criticize your boss. In a B.C. decision, the court confirmed that employees "are generally entitled to criticize their superiors without fear of immediate dismissal." However, when such criticism goes over the edge, the employer is not required to tolerate it.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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McCartney to headline yogic flying benefit

Paul McCartney is going to headline a concert to raise money for yogic flying. Film director David Lynch is organizing the benefit in New York on April 4 and is determined to raise money to teach the technique to school children. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

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Entertainment

**New Heights**

Jennifer Lopez is reported to be starring in a Broadway musical. The singer and actress is considering a role in the New York theatre production of *In the Heights*. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Runway blunder

RAFAEL BRUSILOV
for Metro Canada



Camille Prins went on Project Runway Canada to follow her design dreams, but a frumpy camouflage dress got her sent home in this season's first episode.

On the season premiere last night, designers were tasked with creating a winning dress — using camouflage material — to be displayed in the Canadian War Museum.

Prins, a 28-year-old Toronto native, tried to capture the spirit of a jungle vixen with her dress but the judges felt it just made the model look dirty and unkempt. One judge said it was actually painful to look at, sealing Prins' fate.

On the show, Prins said

her most powerful asset was her positivity and she remains true to form despite being ousted first.

"The show was actually a really fun, positive experience. I feel like it has already opened a lot of doors. If I could I would do it again," Prins said.

Prins had only kind words for the other designers and says most of them bonded because of similar goals and personalities.

Previously, two contestants voluntarily withdrew from the competition in dramatic exits due to health issues. Jaclyn Murray, 26, from Winnipeg, Man., suffered an anxiety attack during the first challenge and had to be hospitalized, choosing to withdraw shortly thereafter.

Danio Frangella, 33, from LaSalle, Ont., left the show

after developing painful skin ulcers, a side-effect from a bout with cancer.

For Prins, the experience of being on the show was a lot tamer and a lot less intimidating than she had expected.

"I expected it to be a hundred times crazier. Even when I was sleeping I was expecting a camera crew to rush in. But you're too busy to even notice that the cameras are there," she said.

Prins says she has wanted to be involved with the show since the first season, so being on the show was a dream come true.

Now that she's off the show, Prins will go back to running her Dutch Blonde women's clothing line (dutchblonde.ca) and she hopes to branch out into menswear and children's



Camille Prins, right, was sent home on Project Runway Canada last night. The judges didn't like her camouflage dress, left.

apparel soon.

While Prins' experience on Project Runway Canada was a positive one, she says it's hard not to feel disap-

pointed. "I was really looking forward to doing some more of the challenges just to push myself to see what I could do."

ABC leads GLAAD award nominations

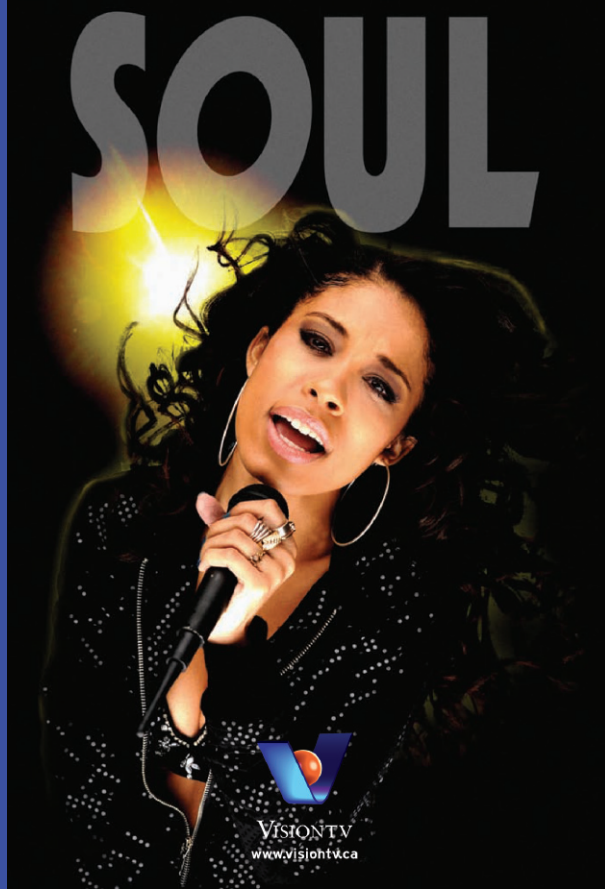
CONTENDERS For the third year running, ABC leads nominees for awards from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. The network earned six nominations for the 20th annual GLAAD Media Awards, with *Brothers & Sisters*, *Desperate Housewives* and *Ugly Betty* among its contenders.

The awards recognize fair and inclusive portrayals of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and issues affecting them.

CBS earned four nominations and NBC nabbed two. Nominees for feature film in wide release include *Brideshead Revisited*, *Milk*, *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*, *RocknRolla* and *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*.

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metro
Do it daily.

Canadian wants crack at Thor's hammer

Movie feature

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada



Forget Brad Pitt. Veto Viggo Mortensen. When it comes to who deserves the coveted role of beloved Marvel Comics icon The Mighty Thor, those pampered Hollywood fancy lads barely bang the hammer.

There is one man who thinks he is truly fit to wear the tights of the pulpified Norse God of Thunder — and that's Canadian actor James Preston Rogers.

Standing over six-foot-five with tree trunk biceps and long blond hair, Rogers (a former bouncer and WWE wrestler) wound his way into a life before the lens three years ago.

Since then he has been slowly making a name for himself in many high-profile pictures including a part in the vikings vs. aliens cross-genre meltdown Outlander.

But it's his very public campaign to assume the role of Thor in director Kenneth Branagh's upcoming — and uncast — adaptation that has seen him winning the hearts of counter-culture fans worldwide.

"Every day, this thing gathers more steam," said Rogers last week during a



CHRIS ALEXANDER/FOR METRO CANADA

James Preston Rogers says he'd be perfect for the role of Thor.

meet and greet at the Toronto Film College. "I just keep getting tons of e-mails, calls and media support. It's been pretty surreal."

When plans to launch a big screen version of the celebrated comic surfaced late last year, Rogers hit the Internet, directing fans to his IMDb page and starting a petition to plead with the powers that be at Marvel to cast him as Thor.

"For years people have said I look like Thor," says the physically intimidating, but soft-spoken, actor. "I saw this as my chance to show people what I can do." Roger's crusade is the

rare case of an actor taking control of his career in the most public way imaginable. But although Rogers is indeed a dead ringer for the Stan Lee/Steve Ditko designed hammer-wielding superhero, with heavy hitters like Pitt, Mortensen and even 300 gladiator Gerard Butler mentioned on the studio wish list, the odds are clearly stacked against him.

"I'm just a Canadian actor, chipping away at a living," Rogers says. "Of course, if Brad wants it, he'll take it. But I'm hoping Marvel will want a fresh face and if they do ... I'm it."

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Laura M., Sweden



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Daniel Craig has signed on to play a baddie in the upcoming 3-D version of *The Adventures of Tintin: Secret of the Unicorn*. Daniel will play nefarious sailor Red Rackham in the Steven Spielberg production. INTOUCHWEEKLY.COM

Roddenberry, wife spend eternity in space

PEOPLE The creator of *Star Trek* and his wife will spend eternity together in space. Celestis Incorporated, a company that specializes in "memorial space flights," says it will ship the remains of Gene Roddenberry and Majel Barrett Roddenberry into space next year.

The couple's cremated

remains will be sealed in specially made capsules designed to withstand the rigours of space travel.



Majel Barrett Roddenberry

denberrys' remains — and the spacecraft — will travel ever deeper into space and will not return to Earth.

After Gene Roddenberry died in 1991, his wife commissioned Celestis to launch a part of his remains into space in 1997. She died Dec. 18, 2008.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAG board ousts chief

A group of board members making up the majority at the Screen Actors Guild on Monday ousted its chief negotiator and national executive director, Doug Allen, according to a senior member of the board.

The move followed months of turmoil at the guild over whether to hold a strike vote, and a contentious meeting two weeks ago when the group tried but failed to fire Allen because of filibustering by other members.

The move pushes the guild further away from a strike vote and will likely hasten an agreement with studios on a movie and prime-time TV contract that expired last June. Actors have been working since then under the terms of the expired deal.

Anne-Marie Johnson, the guild's first vice-president, said board members making up 52.5 per cent of the voting rights on the 71-member board had signed a document making the move.

"The unrelenting obstruction by a minority of

"Even though Unite for Strength said, 'We want what Membership First wants but more,' they left out the caveat, 'But we'll never strike nor will we ever ask for strike authorization.'"

Anne-Marie Johnson, guild vice-president

board members has left us no alternative," the group said.

Allen, a former NFL line-backer and NFL Players Association assistant executive director, will be replaced by former guild general counsel David White, as interim national executive director, the group said. Veteran guild staffer John McGuire will take over as lead negotiator.

The group said all but one of the members of the New York branch, all of

the regional branch division members and all of the non-Membership First members in Hollywood signed the document. Membership First, now in the minority, has the backing of 25 board members.

Johnson said Allen will be paid his full \$500,000 annual salary for the year remaining in his three-year contract. He joined the guild in January 2007.

She said the majority coalition, which included the upstart Hollywood group, Unite for Strength, may retract plans for a strike vote, which had already been delayed several times.

"They were never advocates of trying the best we can do to get a strong contract," she said. "Even though Unite for Strength said, 'We want what Membership First wants but more,' they left out the caveat, 'But we'll never strike nor will we ever ask for strike authorization.'"

A spokesman for Unite for Strength did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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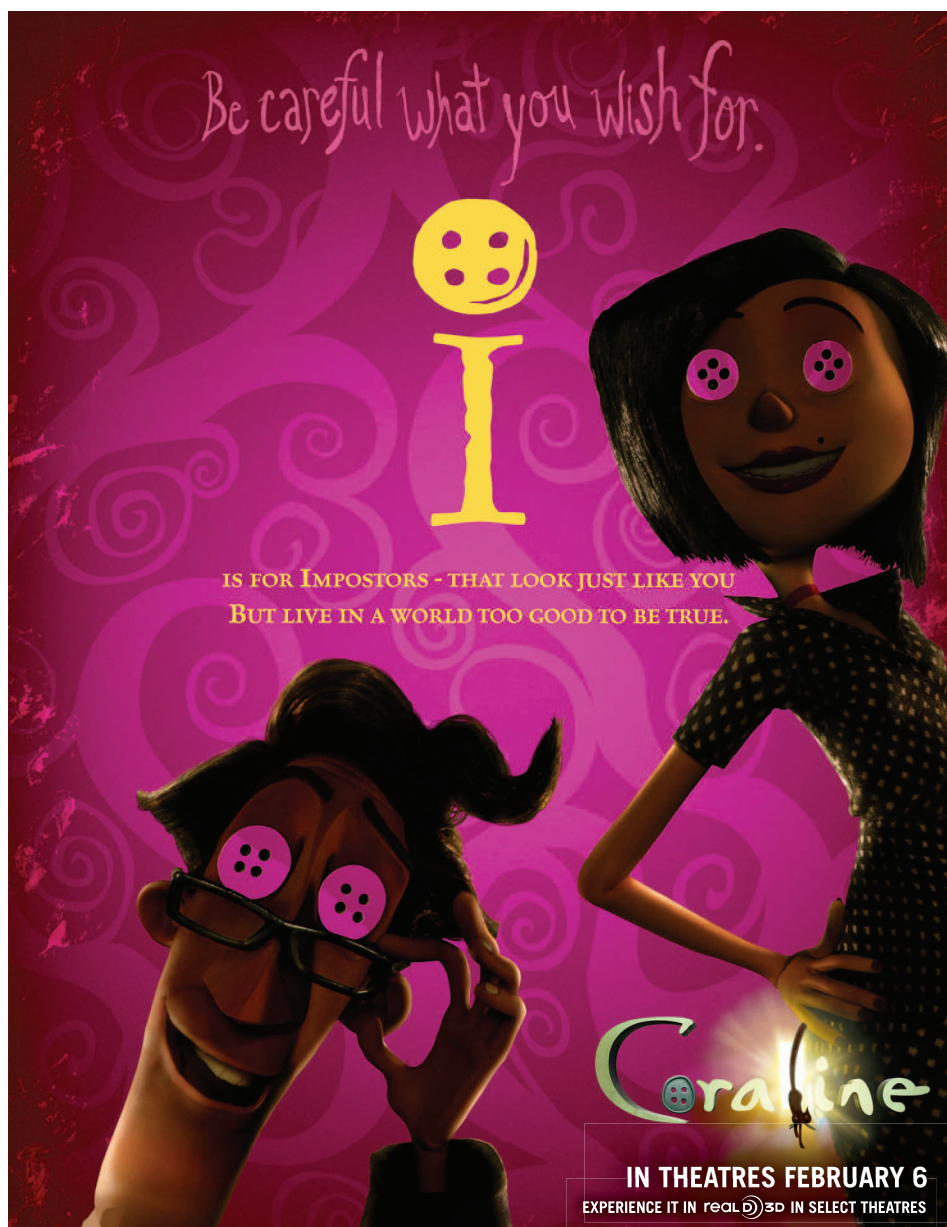
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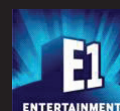
CAMILLA BELLE

AND DJIMON HOUNSOU



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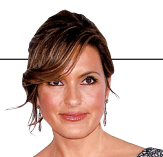
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Do it daily.

Hargitay returns to Law & Order

Mariska Hargitay has returned to the Law & Order: SVU set, two weeks after news broke that the actress had suffered a partially collapsed lung, the star's rep confirmed. PEOPLE.COM



Cross takes show online

ONLINE Metro music columnist and host of radio show The Ongoing History of New Music Alan Cross has joined AUX, an interactive, cross-platform channel dedicated to new music.

Cross will host ExploreMusic With Alan Cross, a series that will spotlight up-and-coming and established Canadian and international artists on aux.tv.

"This is a great opportunity to take our music discovery project, ExploreMusic, even further," said Cross, who also writes a column for Metro each Friday. "First, it was online with ExploreMusic.com and on radio with our daily show.



Alan Cross

Not to mention The Ongoing History of New Music, which has been running since 1993.

"Now with AUX, we can extend the discussion of music into a whole new realm. And anytime people get to discuss music in a passionate way, that's a good thing."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Read more about Alan Cross' new project at metronews.ca/music

Berlin film festival offers diverse lineup

Movies by Iranian and Peruvian directors will compete for the Berlin film festival's top prize this year alongside new offerings starring Renee Zellweger, Tommy Lee Jones, Michelle Pfeiffer, Judi Dench and others, organizers said yesterday.

The Berlin event, the first of the year's major European film festivals, runs from Feb. 5 through 15.

Eighteen films will compete for the main Golden Bear prize, while another



Clive Owen

eight will show out of competition, including the Oscar-nominated Holocaust-themed drama The Reader, starring Kate Winslet.

Festival director Dieter Kosslick said many films this year reflect the impact of globalization on people's lives.

He argued that the global economic crisis has given new relevance to films such as Tom Tykwer's The International, starring Clive Owen and Naomi Watts, which opens the festival next week and traces financial transactions that fuel war and terrorism.

"Many films suddenly reflect reality better than anything else," Kosslick said at a news conference. "Fiction has caught up with reality this year."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Contractors claim Perry didn't pay

PEOPLE Six construction companies have filed liens against actor-screenwriter Tyler Perry's home and movie studio, claiming they are owed thousands of dollars in unpaid bills.

Fulton County court documents show the companies are claiming nearly \$200,000 US for work they completed on Perry's 2,790-square-metre home and production studio in Atlanta, Ga. Perry says he withheld payment from the companies for undocumented charges or for sloppy work. He says he is being treated unfairly because he is a celebrity.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Dancing shoes Donny Osmond let slip that he would appear on Dancing with the Stars during a recent taping of The Bonnie Hunt Show. **PEOPLE.COM**

Donny Osmond let slip that he would appear on *Dancing with the Stars* during a recent taping of *The Bonnie Hunt Show*. **PEOPLE.COM**

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George, with a talented border collie named Venus, has made numerous TV appearances and has a popular YouTube site. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

As long as the 18-49 demographic is still considered a mix of the football team, the cheerleading squad and the rich kid who lets you drive his BMW, there's no consolation to be had from news that three of the four U.S. networks have lost a considerable chunk of these viewers — a 12-per-cent drop from last year's numbers for ABC and NBC, and 14 per cent loss for Fox, according to a New



No one who knows the difference between The Shins and The Mars Volta

A few of you might already have noticed that ads for adult incontinence pads and cures for male urinary irregularities have migrated from cable and late night to prime time. Look for more of the same, until the day when some network realizes that enough of their viewers have memory issues for them to just run the same episode of CSI every night.

For many prisoners, life behind bars is far superior to what they had on the outside. That's definitely the case for the subjects of this new documentary. Filmmaker Alexandra Westmeier goes behind the walls of a juvenile detention facility in rural Russia where the inmates — boys 10 to 14 years old — get regular meals, clothes, schooling and the opportunity to play sports. In other words, they get to be kids for once and not struggle to stay alive. 10 PM on TVO



An outstanding cast — Tom Courtenay, Matthew Macfadyen, Bill Paterson and Claire Foy — stars in this adaptation of the Charles Dickens novel. Kind-hearted Amy Dorrit (Foy) looks after her father, William (Courtenay), an inmate of a debtors prison. Their fate is transformed by Arthur Clennam (Macfadyen), who is sure his father's dying words, "Put it right, Arthur," are connected to the Dorrits and discovers they are sitting on a huge fortune. 9 PM on TVO

metronews.ca/globalstyle

 See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

To	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	
primetime	1/28/09	265	353	2	TVO	Expedition: Guyana (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Little Dorrit		Alone in Four Walls (N)	Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "97 Seconds"		Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		(10:02) Life on Mars		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II News (N)		The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Week the Women Went		CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		13: Fear Is Real		Hates Chris	Friends	I Love Money		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	American Idol (HDTV) (N)		Criminal Minds "Lo-Fi"		CSI: NY "Veritas" (HDTV)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Party Monsters: Cabo		Fashion Police: SAG Awards		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Destination Nor'Ouest 2		Les Légendes de Rita ** (1999, Drame)		Bibiane Beglau.		Évolution
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men King		Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	The Road Home ** (1996, Adventure)		Will Estes, Keegan MacIntosh.				Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Evening News	Old Christine	Criminal Minds "Lo-Fi"		CSI: NY "Veritas" (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Lost "The Lie"		Lost "Jughead" (N)		(10:02) Life on Mars		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Lost "The Lie"		Lost "Jughead" (N)		(10:02) Law & Order		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	American Idol (HDTV) (N)		Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		Seinfeld		Two/Half Men
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Vicar of Dibley	Windsors-Royal		Make 'em Laugh: The Funny Business of America (N)				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Privileged (HDTV)		90210 (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N) '70s Show		Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Privileged
	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Jelly Fish Invasion (N)		National
500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)			
509	504	79	CNB	CNBC Reports (HDTV)				American Greed (N)		On the Money		Mad Money	
sports	405	417	22	net	World Sport	UFC Primetime	UFC 74: Respect Couture takes on Gonzaga.				Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Pregame	NHL Hockey Buffalo Sabres at Calgary Flames. (HDTV) (Live)				NHL Hockey		
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	417	406	81	SC	NASCAR Pre.	Pass Time (N)	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	NASCAR Pre.
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	554	544	45	TEL	Total Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Misadventures	Futurama	The Critic	Robot Chicken	Bromwell High
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	How Clean	Too Posh	Maxed Out (N)	Maxed Out	Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	America's Best Dance Crew			Brooke Knows	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	PunchMunch
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	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Un Ciclone In Famiglia 2				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmtpot	MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	Story Of Spice Girls.		All-Time Top 10		Revival
	575	583	38	CMT	CMT's Greatest		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Three Chords
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		About a Girl	About a Girl	The Guard "Waheguru"		Big Love (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLI	Ti Debt-Part	Rich Poor	X-Weighted		Real Housewives of OC		Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS		Cities of the Underworld		Gladiator Graveyard		NCIS		Lost Inventions
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hit Potential	Really Big Flip	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Signs *** (2002, Suspense) Mel Gibson.				Steve Harvey	Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Soul Plane ** (2004, Comedy) Kevin Hart, Tom Arnold.				Keyshia Cole	Keyshia Cole	Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost "Tabula Rasa"		Star Trek: Voyager		Rabbit Fall	Rabbit Fall	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Mom & Dad	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		The Real World (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Chef at Home	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Top Chef Super Bowl cook-off. (N)			
261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	Darling Buds of May		Life & Times		Poltergeist	
621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ	
553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby	
115	711	101	TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Sketch Show	Destinées "Poker Face" (SC)		Dommages et intérêts		TVA 22 heures (10:45) Denis Lévesque			
126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct Le National		Le Téléjournal	
526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium		Medium "Coming Soon"		Mediums		Psychic Detect	
300	601	301	M1	(6: Kardla	(7:25) Balls of Fury (2007, Comedy)			No Country for Old Men *** (2007, Crime Drama)				Prom Night	
305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) Dead Silence ** (1997, Suspense)				Gattaca *** (1997, Science Fiction) Ethan Hawke.				Desperado	

Halliwell gets engaged

Spice Girl Geri Halliwell is engaged after a whirlwind romance, People magazine has confirmed. The redheaded Ginger Spice, 36, is set to wed Italian yacht-company owner Fabrizio Politi, 34. **PEOPLE.COM**



Celebrity Buzz

Amy to visit prison in bid to keep hubby

MARRIAGE Amy Winehouse is set to visit her husband in prison in a bid to stop him from filing for divorce, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Rehab singer — who has been romantically linked with 21-year-old actor Josh Bowman and a fitness instructor named Andrew while holidaying in St. Lucia — has applied to see Blake Fielder-Civil and is set to return to the U.K. any day to save their marriage.

A friend of the 25-year-old star said that, “Since he began divorce proceedings Amy has decided she wants to try and work things out.”

“She has applied to visit

him in jail in Britain and if he accepts she will fly back. We will see what his priority is. Amy or her money.”

Blake — who is serving a 27-month sentence for perverting the course of justice and grievous bodily harm — is reportedly planning to ask for half of Winehouse’s fortune in a divorce settlement.

Despite being photographed frolicking with Josh on her holiday and reports they frequently romped, Winehouse has insisted she “still loves” Blake.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

‘Adopt me’: Clooney

PEOPLE George Clooney has made an offer few can refuse: He has placed himself up for adoption, people.com reports.

“I always wanted to be adopted, but I couldn’t find anyone,” said the star, speaking at a Newseum event in Washington, D.C., with his father, former Ohio news anchor Nick Clooney, and veteran journalist Bill Small on either side of him.

“Will you adopt me?” George said to Small. “I’m very wealthy. I’ll take care of

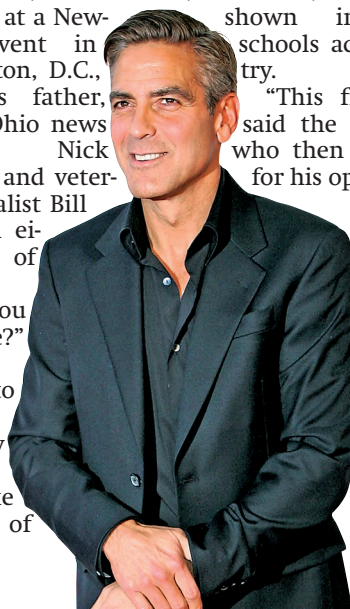
you.”

Talk of adoption started after Nick Clooney’s observation that his son’s 2005 film, *Good Night, and Good Luck*, about iconic CBS newsmen Edward R. Murrow, is now being shown in journalism schools across the country.

“This film has legs,” said the elder Clooney, who then asked his son for his opinion.

“I don’t care for that,” said the jocular George — prompting Nick to respond: “I never cared for this kid — his sister’s great.”

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Angie and Brad to rent classy \$60 million US estate

COUPLE What could make Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt’s upcoming rental of a \$60 million US estate in the Gold Coast area of New York’s Long Island even more fabulous? How about throwing in the use of the property owner’s \$90 million luxury yacht?

Star Magazine is reporting the Hollywood couple — and their six children — will be moving into the Sassafras estate in the exclusive waterfront town of Lloyd Neck, while Angelina begins area filming for the spy thriller *Salt* in March.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Airbrushed teeth in Sienna photo

VANITY Airbrushing is nothing new in the fashion industry, but have you heard of someone’s teeth needing to be airbrushed?

Femalefirst.co.uk is reporting that was the case for Sienna Miller.

The website says a new documentary reveals that when the actress was shot for the cover of *American Vogue* in 2007 the magazine’s editor Anna Wintour voiced her concerns over Sienna’s oral health as she had “too many fillings.”

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Affleck admits he wasn’t always lucky in love

DATING Ben Affleck was “never very good” at dating, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 36-year-old actor — who had relationships with Gwyneth Paltrow and Jennifer Lopez before marrying Jennifer Garner — admits starring in new romantic comedy *He’s Just Not That Into You* was a challenge because he hasn’t always been lucky in love.

“You’re asking me for dating advice? I can’t give any — I was never very good at it, I don’t think anyone should follow my advice,” he said.

Ben added he enjoyed making the film — which

tells the stories of several young men and women in different stages of relationships — because it reminded him of his life before he was married.

“This film showed me that I’m happy I’m married. But I do like listening to boys when they are dating, and all the actors in the movie are very good. We have all these different archetypes — the one who’s trying too hard and is a really nice guy but the girl doesn’t like him anyway. Then there’s the player who takes a girl under his wing.”

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Rourke’s Wrestler injuries

PEOPLE Mickey Rourke had to be helped up stairs by his girlfriend after suffering so many injuries from *The Wrestler*, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 56-year-old actor — who recently won a Golden Globe Award for his role as Randy (The Ram) Robinson in the movie — wasn’t prepared for the effects the brutal fighting scenes would have on his body.

“I had to try harder to get up in the morning. And because of my extra bulk, a football knee from high school acted up again. Two hundred years later!

And my woman had to get behind me and push me up the stairs. I was pathetic looking,” he said.

“So my knees wouldn’t hold up, because of all the extra weight and the exercise. And all the injuries you get from being thrown down, you know?”

Rourke recently revealed he is planning to step into the wrestling ring for real, after WWE owner Vince McMahon got in touch.

“Now, Vince wants me to do *WrestleMania* in Houston. Chris Jericho, I’m coming after you’re a—! You better get yourself in shape brother. I’m going to do it! You bet you’re a—, I’m going to do it!”

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lohan loses a lot of weight lately

PEOPLE Lindsay Lohan’s shrinking frame has had folks worried lately, as the erratic actress has lost a noticeable amount of weight. But her publicist is working hard to explain all that. “Lindsay is aware that she’s lost some weight due to stress,” Lohan’s rep tells *Hollyscoop*.

“But we recently did a photo shoot and she ate two full meals.”

No word on what’s causing all this stress, but her rocky relationship with Samantha Ronson can’t be helping.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Melt away that frosty landline with tons of talk.



Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18								19	20			
			21		22	23		24				
25	26	27			28		29			30	31	32
33					34					35		
36					37					38		
			39	40			41		42			
43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		4				3		
	3		4		8		7	
8	9						1	4
			7	9		6	1	
2								3
			6	5		2	7	
1	7						5	2
	5			3		1	9	
		9				4		

Crossword across

- 1 Light-years away
5 Weep loudly
8 Vicinity
12 Theatre box
13 Crony
14 Rent
15 Lamb and eggplant recipe
17 Libertine's feeling
18 — au poivre
19 Explosions
21 Pinocchio, notably
24 Braying beast
25 George Herman Ruth
28 Campus hangout
30 Recede
33 Mess up
34 Fastidious
- 35 Have a bug
36 Ostrich's kin
37 Right on the map?
38 Zealots' group
39 "Casablanca" pianist
41 Apiece
43 Rigatoni and rotini
46 5-Down features
50 Double Stuf cookie
51 Subject of Frederick I
54 Pottery oven
55 "— Town"
56 Notions holder
57 Relaxation
58 X rating?
59 Nitwit

Crossword down

- 1 Charitable gifts
3 Yard portion
3 Chills and fever
4 Auction, essentially
5 Masseur's workplace, maybe
6 Furniture wood
7 Spill the beans
8 Holdup man?
9 Philosopher Jean-Jacques
10 Formerly, formerly
11 Picnic invaders
16 Schuss
20 Gentlewoman
22 Blue hue
23 Charlotte — (dessert)
25 Spelling contest
26 Branch
- 27 NATO headquarters site
29 "The Thin Man" dog
31 Puppeteer Baird
32 Sandwich shop order
34 Damage assessment org.
38 Pursued
40 Expiate (for)
42 Couric's network
43 Prod
44 Met melody
45 Location
47 One of the Jackson 5
48 Truckload
49 Fit of peevishness
52 Wish otherwise
53 Coffee dispenser

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

G	U	L	F		R	E	M		M	A	M	E
A	G	A	R		I	R	A		A	M	I	D
S	H	O	E	H	O	R	N		D	O	N	G
			E	A	T		D	I	C	K	E	Y
P	S	A	L	M		N	A	S	A			
E	A	S	Y		H	O	R	N	P	I	P	E
E	R	A		G	O	T	I	T		D	E	L
P	I	P	E	D	O	W	N		S	E	E	S
			M	A	K	O		S	H	A	N	A
R	E	D	E	Y	E		S	U	E			
O	V	E	R		D	O	W	N	L	O	A	D
B	I	N	G		U	S	A		V	I	L	A
E	L	S	E		P	U	G		E	L	A	N

1	8	4	5	9	7	3	6	2
3	2	9	8	4	6	5	1	7
7	5	6	3	2	1	4	9	8
5	4	3	2	1	8	9	7	6
2	9	1	6	7	4	8	3	5
6	7	8	9	3	5	1	2	4
4	1	5	7	6	3	2	8	9
9	3	7	4	8	2	6	5	1
8	6	2	1	5	9	7	4	3

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	Genius	
13-17 min	Scholar	
	21-25 min	Not bad
	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Filet Mignon Salad

- INGREDIENTS:**
- 4 red peppers
 - 10 oz (300 g) filet mignon
 - 1/2 tsp (2 mL) pepper
 - 2 garlic cloves
 - 1 lb (500 g) green beans, trimmed
 - 4 tbsp (60 mL) balsamic vinegar
 - 2 tsp (10 mL) extra virgin olive oil
 - 2 tbsp (25 mL) finely chopped shallot
 - 1/4 lb (125 g) mixed salad greens
 - 6 tomatoes, cut into 1/4-in (0.5-cm) wedges

METHOD:

- Preheat broiler. Place red peppers in broiler pan. Cook until skins are blistered and blackened, turning frequently. Place in plastic bag, seal tightly and let steam 10 minutes. Peel away blackened skins from peppers, seed and cut into chunks.
- Meanwhile, lay filet flat on cutting board and slit lengthwise three-quarters of the way through. Open

up like a book and press flat. Sprinkle with 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper. Cut 1 garlic clove in half and rub cut sides all over beef. Barbecue or broil beef until done to taste, about 3 minutes per side for medium. Thinly slice beef.

3. Cook beans in boiling water until crisp-tender, about 5 minutes. Drain and rinse immediately with cold water.

4. Crush remaining garlic clove. Whisk vinegar, oil, garlic, shallot and remaining pepper in small bowl. Divide mixed salad greens among 4 plates and arrange meat, pepper, beans and tomatoes on top. Drizzle with dressing and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20

♈

Fate takes a hand and delayed money arrives. A man wants to run away due to lost trust. You'd be happier somewhere else.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23

♎

Your patience is rewarded by a forceful person. A traveller will convince you that he's right. Friendly actions will become an issue.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21

♉

Try not to be upset by guilty feelings. Your good deeds are repaid twice over. Ask questions in order to lower your stress level.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22

♏

A timid person is playing a waiting game. Try to have reasonable expectations of distant friends. Behave reasonably to obtain more freedom.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21

♊

Give yourself a fresh start. Hurt feelings will erupt temporarily. If someone sees you as a hero, try to live up to it.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21

♐

An incredible interruption comes up after lunch. An old man is excited about a mystery friend. You'll find a tempting bargain.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22

♋

A meeting has nothing to do with you. Somebody with a deceptive smile should be avoided. You can tell that something has failed.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20

♑

Doors will open after an emotional predicament. Some people are in a foul mood. A notorious man requests your help, but you'll refuse.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23

♌

It'll be great if you can take a different approach. Bravado is important when you're avoiding a call. Stay away from scandalous actions all day.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18

♒

Hammer home your point with a very light touch. You'll enjoy someone's amusing discussion. A generous man will be your lucky charm.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22

♍

A friend may be loyal but is also indiscreet. A habitual favour-beggar regrets a previous request. A second chance can come at night.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20

♓

Coffee shop talk leads to deception in a company. A polite person is making amends. An unpleasant creature can be dealt with by a friend.

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CITY: 7.3 L/100KM 39 MPG

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5-STAR CRASH TEST RATING
NHTSA - Frontal impacts**



LX model shown

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5-STAR CRASH TEST RATING
NHTSA - Frontal and side impacts**



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